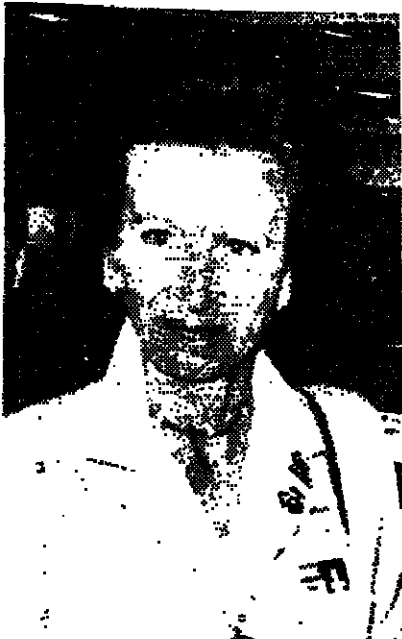


Terse statement notes the end of a royal marriage



The Princess yesterday in Puerto Rico, where she was at an Olympic meeting.

By Alan Hamilton

The long-expected news that the marriage of the Princess Royal and Captain Mark Phillips has foundered was given official confirmation yesterday in a terse statement from Buckingham Palace, which admitted that the couple are to lead separate lives, although there are no immediate plans for divorce.

In the typically spare style of Palace announcements, the statement, issued at noon yesterday, said simply: "Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal and Captain Mark Phillips have decided to separate on terms agreed between them. There are no plans for divorce proceedings." The release of what had already become common knowledge had been planned for midnight last night, while the Princess was safely distant from the backwash at a meeting of the International Olympic Committee in Puerto Rico, but it was overtaken by a leak to newspapers on Wednesday night which was confirmed by the captain's father, Major Peter Phillips.

A Palace spokesman confirmed that the Princess will continue to live in the

'Separate lives' but there are no plans for a divorce says Palace spokesman

family home at Gatcombe Park, Gloucestershire, bought for the couple by the Queen in 1976 at an estimated cost of £750,000.

Major Phillips said his son would be moving into Aston Farm, two miles from Gatcombe in the Gloucestershire village of Cherington.

However, farmworkers yesterday said the isolated, seventeenth-century farmhouse was already occupied by Mr Dan Bailey, a local farmer who had taken out a long lease on the property when he moved there several years ago.

Aston Farm was bought by the Queen 12 years ago, so Princess Anne and her husband could extend their farming interests at Gatcombe.

The Queen paid an undisclosed sum to Captain Vaisey Davies, aged 93, for

the 600 acres and 290 pedigree cattle in 1977. Several tied cottages, which are also occupied, surround the stone farmhouse. To the rear is a run-down swimming pool and several stables.

Mr Bailey, who is in his fifties, yesterday refused to discuss his future at the farm. He told *The Times*: "I have no comment whatsoever about any aspect of this affair."

Asked about reports that Captain Phillips was to receive a generous financial settlement, a Palace spokesman said that the terms of the separation were private.

Friends of the couple said yesterday that the separation had not been badtempered, and that they were still on good terms. Major Malcolm Wallace, the director-general of the British Equestrian

Federation, said: "There is absolutely no indication that it was acrimonious at all." He expected them to continue appearing at equestrian events as a couple, and to carry on with their joint fund-raising activities for the federation.

Captain Phillips was at Gatcombe yesterday. He intends to continue running the farm, and the equestrian events which have become a regular feature on the Gatcombe calendar. Today the Princess leaves Puerto Rico for Belize, where she will visit British army units before travelling on to Honduras to see projects of the Save the Children Fund, of which she is president. She is then due to make official visits to Ecuador and Bolivia before returning to Britain on September 15.

The Princess ignored all questions

about her marriage as she entered an IOC meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, yesterday. Captain Phillips, who returned from a business visit to Canada on Monday, likewise made no comment during the day.

The couple's two children will remain with their mother at Gatcombe, although their father will have full access to them. Peter Phillips, who will be 12 in November, attends Port Regis boarding school in Shaftesbury, Dorset. His sister Zara, aged eight, is to join him there later this month when the new term begins.

Major Phillips said yesterday at his home, at Great Somerford, Wiltshire, that he was "very sad" at the collapse of his son's marriage. The couple would seek a legal separation, but had no plans for divorce, he said. "I am saddened by the situation, but they have got to sort it out themselves. I knew it was coming, and I have done for a few weeks."

The separation is a second personal tragedy for Major Phillips. In July 1988, his wife Anne died of kidney failure.

Major Phillips has spoken in the past about the difficulties of his son's

Continued on page 20, col 4

Parkinson's new rules for river safety

Look-outs and better lighting demanded

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

Stringent new rules for vessels on the Thames were issued yesterday.

The regulations came as Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, said better "navigation illuminations and communications could have helped prevent the Marchioness accident," in

which up to 56 people died last month. The recommendations come in the wake of the submission of the interim report by the Department of Transport's newly created Marine Accident Investigation Branch.

It is examining the causes of the collision between the ill-fated pleasure cruiser and the sand dredger, Bowbelle, at Southwark Bridge.

Two of the six recommendations - mandatory look-outs to be posted on the bow of vessels at all times, and improved navigation lighting - will be "given legal force as soon as possible," Mr Parkinson said.

All the recommendations will be put into operation from tomorrow "on a voluntary basis," he said.

Under the new rules, vessels over 40 metres long with navigation from the aft section will be required to station a look-out on the bow "who should have telephone or UHF communication with the wheelhouse" or bridge, and be required to report all vessel sightings.

Vessels over 40 metres in length navigating the Thames at night "should carry a light illuminating the bow or a light on each side", in addition to the four navigation lights required at present.

Captains of pleasure cruises will be required to look "frequently astern, and keep continuous radio watch on VHF Channel 14," the station used to monitor vessel movements on the Thames.

The same recommendation also calls for the bridge to be insulated "against noise," suggesting that loud disco music may have impaired the ability of the Marchioness to hear radio messages from the Bowbelle.

The Port of London Authority, the body responsible for navigation on the Thames, has been asked to review by-law 19, which governs the movements of vessels "not in

sight of one another when navigating in or near an area of restricted visibility.

"Although vessels are generally required to navigate on the right of the fairway or river, there are a number of exceptions to the rule - particularly when a vessel crosses the river - which can cause confusion."

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch said: "Ideally, it would be desirable to develop a form of traffic segregation but we recognize the practical difficulties. However, we recommend that the possibility be thoroughly examined."

It also called on the Marine Directorate of the Department of Transport to "examine the possibility of setting standards for the construction of ships' bridges," to improve forward visibility, with a view to obtaining new international agreements. The recommendations are to be passed on to all port authorities.

Mr John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, last night welcomed the interim measures as "a step in the right direction". Additional navigation rules were likely with the publication of the full report, he said.

Mr Prescott said the reintroduction of look-outs would help to improve river discipline, although he insisted on the need to install new identification navigation lights for passenger ships which have to cross the river.

Yesterday's measures come after the emergency regulations introduced last week, designed to rectify some of the shortcomings in river safety highlighted by the Marchioness tragedy.

These require pleasure cruise operators to leave a record of passenger numbers ashore, give instructions to passengers on emergency procedures in much the same way as those carried out by airlines, and the introduction of random "spot-checks" by the river authorities.

Exodus of despair on road from Beirut



Drivers packing the principal escape route from Beirut as the city suffered one of its worst days of shelling since the short-lived UN ceasefire.

Even people who have lived in the city for a long time, and who have lived through years of civil warfare, are concluding that city life is no

longer viable. Panic turned to terror when shelling by Christian army units blocked a crucial road junction in south Beirut, cutting off the Muslim half of the capital from the rest of Lebanon.

The shelling blocked the Muslims' escape route from the carnage which

cost the lives of six civilians and wounded at least 50 in the latest fighting.

Christian shells also struck as far east as the Bekaa Valley, apparently in an attempt to cut Syrian supply lines in the worst fighting since the August 16 ceasefire appeal by the United

Nations Security Council. Lebanese Army gunners also knocked out a Syrian naval artillery battery in a fierce Christian response to the shelling of a Lebanese oil tanker earlier in the week which took the lives of nine crewmen.

Naval battery falls, page 9

NEXT WEEK

Legacy of war

● Fifty years after World War II began, it continues to shape our world. Terrorism, nationalist dissent, the financial structure of Europe... all owe something to it.

● Next week, in a series compiled by a team of leading analysts, *The Times* links what happened then to what happens now.

● To mark the series, the classic television history of the conflict *The World At War* is being offered to readers on video at a reduced price (details will appear on Monday). Readers can also obtain a free reprint of *The Times* of September 4, 1939: page 3.

● Portfolio Bond: there were five prizes - but only four winners - in yesterday's game: page 3. Today's game: page 25

Degree service

The list of vacancies for degree courses in Modern Languages, Engineering Technology and Mathematics is published today. A full list will be published on Monday...Page 27

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Summer is on course for record

By Robin Young

August was, in London and parts of the south-east at least, the sunniest on record, and it kept this summer on course to be the sunniest in human memory.

Although no temperature records were broken, it was the fourth consecutive month in which large parts of the country enjoyed more than 200 hours of sunshine. The 1947 record of 269 hours was overtaken yesterday, when just three hours of sun were required to clinch the record.

Taken together the months of May, June, July and August recorded the highest amount of sunshine London has seen since records began, the London Weather Centre said yesterday.

Many parts of the country had half as much sunshine again as could normally be expected in August.

Huge blast rocks Medellin centre

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

A huge explosion yesterday shattered the fleeting peace of Medellin, Colombia's second biggest city and centre of the South American cocaine business, after the overnight tranquility resulting from a curfew ordered by the mayor.

At least two people were reported to have been killed in the blast, outside a paints factory, which occurred with the city at work in late morning.

The explosion left a crater several feet deep and serious damage to buildings.

HI-tech attack... 8

iously injured pedestrians and passing motorists. There were reports that the explosion was directed at tanks of chemicals outside the factory, but it was not clear whether they had been ignited.

The explosion came after the first night of a curfew from 10pm to 6am which Medellin's mayor has imposed for an indefinite period amid threats from cocaine racketeers to unleash "total war" on the government in Bogotá.

● Five killed: Soldiers in northern Colombia killed five members of a paramilitary squad reportedly run by drug traffickers, and police said yesterday that more than 500 people were arrested for violating the curfew in Medellin (AP reports).

● WASHINGTON: The first of up to 100 US servicemen arrive in Colombia today to organize the first stage of the giant \$65 million airlift of US military equipment to the Colombian government to help in the war on the drugs barons (Nicholas Beeson writes).

The troops will take part in the three stage operation to distribute the military aid and to train Colombian forces in the use of the equipment.

Disgraced preacher hides under lawyer's sofa

From Charles Bremner New York



Mr Bakker: Visions of frightening animals

The trial of Jim Bakker, the defrocked television evangelist, was thrown into turmoil yesterday when he fled and hid under his lawyer's sofa. The judge ordered him to be taken to a psychiatric clinic.

Mr Bakker, the first of the wealthy video-preachers to fall from grace in the recent sex scandals, suffered his apparent breakdown as the court in Charlotte, North Carolina, prepared to hear evidence from former brethren who are alleged to have helped him to swindle \$4 million (£2.55 million) from his flock at the now bankrupt PTL ministry.

While Tammy Faye, his wife, begged on the couple's local television station for fresh donations from the faithful, Mr

Bakker, aged 49, was seen running from his car into his lawyer's office. There the evangelist was found by Dr Basil Jackson, a psychiatrist who has been attending him. "He was lying in the corner with his head under a couch", Dr Jackson told the judge. From that position Mr Bakker had said that he saw "frightening animals which he felt were bent on destroying him".

Dr Jackson told the judge: "Mr Bakker is manifesting evidence of severe psychotic, emotional regression", adding that he could be cured by two weeks in hospital.

Instead, the judge ordered Mr Bakker, who faces a possible 120-year prison sentence, to undergo tests at a prison psychiatric clinic. He sent home the jury with orders not to watch television. The first sign of Mr Bakker's nervous

collapse came late on Wednesday when a prosecution witness passed out under cross-examination. Mr Bakker, who regards the whole proceedings as a plot by the Devil to undo him, squatted close to the hostile witness and prayed, apparently attempting to exercise his once celebrated skills as a faith healer.

Mr George Davis, one of the legal team defending Mr Bakker, told the court yesterday that the preacher wanted to continue the trial.

A small band of believers in Mr Bakker stood in shock outside the courtroom, though reaction from his former associates was more muted. Miss Jessica Hahn, the woman whose sexual encounter with the evangelist triggered his downfall and catapulted her to celebrity, said: "It's just a sympathy

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Burglary linked to farm murder

Police were yesterday investigating the murder of Mrs Linda Rothwell, aged 39, at her remote country farmhouse in Affside near Bolton, Greater Manchester. Her body was discovered after her husband, Stephen Wilson, aged 29, with whom she shared Bradshaw Head Farm, returned from a business meeting to find the house had been broken into.

He telephoned the police, who found the body lying in the grounds of the farm. Police said there were signs of a burglary and Mrs Rothwell's Peugeot car was missing. It was later discovered near by.

Det Sgt Jim Henderson, of Bolton CID, said: "There is evidence of entry to the house and clearly a prime motive must be theft."

Fields and hedgerows nearby were yesterday being searched for the murder weapon. Three Rottweiler dogs were in the house when police arrived, but one was a puppy and the other two were locked inside a room.

£12m ferry revamp

The Mersey Passenger Transport Authority yesterday agreed to spend £12.4 million to refurbish the four loss-making ferries that operate across the Mersey and turn them into pleasure cruisers (Ronald Faux writes). Last year the ferries lost £2.75 million on the commuter service between Liverpool, Birkenhead and Wallasey. From April they will operate as ferries only during peak hours, and for the rest of the day cruise the estuary and the Manchester Ship Canal.

Union wins support

The TUC's general council yesterday averted an inter-union dispute at its annual conference next week by expressing support for the left-led Electrical, Plumbing and Industries Union in its efforts to establish itself as an independent union (Roland Rudd writes). It voted by 38 to five to permit the union, made up of former members of the right-led Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, observer status at the conference.

Restaurant to be sold

The restaurant opened in Essex by the late Peter Langan has closed, leaving his widow with debts of £200,000. Mrs Susan Langan, aged 47, said yesterday receivers had forced her to put the 75-seat Coggeshall Langan restaurant at Althamstone on the market for about £250,000. She said customers had deserted the restaurant after her husband died in a fire at their home. The receivers, the London accountants Leonard Curtis, are confident of a quick sale.

Barn too like house

A smallholder has been ordered to pull down his new barn because planners say it looks too much like a house. Mr Tom Burkard insists that he does not need planning permission for the barn at Easton, Norfolk, as it is an agricultural building. However, a Department of the Environment inspector ruled that it could not be said to be designed for agricultural purposes and should be demolished. Mr Burkard, aged 45, plans to appeal.

Funeral for couple

Nearly 300 people attended the funeral service for Brian Randall and his wife, Ursula, both aged 52, in the Wiltshire village of Hilperton yesterday. Loud-speakers broadcast the 35-minute service to some 100 people standing outside the parish church. The service was conducted by the Rev Richard Hicks, who found the bodies of the couple in their home on August 12. A man has been charged with their murder and the attempted murder of their daughter Sarah.

Adams starts with an impressive chess win

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Michael Adams, aged 17, the British champion, from Truro, Cornwall, made a good start to the Westminster Bank Grandmaster chess tournament in Bournemouth, London, defeating Mark Hebden in the first round.

In other first round matches, Watson, of England, and Barua, of India, drew, as did Levitt and Keene, both of England, and Conquest, of

England, with McNab, of Scotland. David Bronstein, of the Soviet Union, defeated Marshad, of Bangladesh.

In Skelleftea, Sweden, the thirteenth round of the \$1.2 million World Chess Cup was something of an anticlimax. Garry Kasparov, the Soviet Union's world champion, drew his game with Yasser Seirawan, the American grandmaster.

November think-tank

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Labour chiefs will meet to plan tactics

The Shadow Cabinet is to hold a two-day meeting from November 9 to plan the Labour Party's political tactics up to next year's Budget.

Labour leaders have been delighted at their success in keeping campaigns going through the summer on the health service and the economy. They believe they have been able to continue shaping the political agenda to suit themselves. The health service, traditionally a good issue for Labour, coming out as the leading public concern in the latest opinion poll.

Though Labour's lead over the Government has dropped in a quiet summer, Labour's share of the vote has held up.

Party leaders believe that they can maintain the present gap, if not extend it, with a successful party conference this year. They intend to plan a series of

campaigns after taking the political temperature at this year's party conferences.

They believe that the policy review will go through at Brighton without any serious difficulties. Although a fierce speech is expected from Mr Ron Todd, the Transport and General Workers' Union leader, attacking the new defence policy, party leaders believe that the abiding impression left by the conference will be the defeat of unilateralism, since the necessary union votes are already stacked up.

After the success of the European Parliament elections, when Labour gained 13 seats from the Conservatives, party chiefs believe there will be few attempts to rock the boat.

They plan a greater "Europeanization" of the party. Mr Neil Kinnock and

£257m move to improve commuter rail services

By Michael Dynes and John Lewis

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, yesterday announced a £257 million package to replace pre-war rolling stock on Network SouthEast services in south-east London and north-east Kent.

Four hundred new "networker coaches" will begin to be introduced before the end of 1991 in an effort to increase capacity and improve the quality of commuter services.

Mr Parkinson heralded the decision as "the biggest single order for London commuter services since the 1950s," which will facilitate "the withdrawal of a substantial number of old slam-door trains."

Over the next five years, Network SouthEast plans to spend another £120 million lengthening platforms at 63 stations, introducing new signalling and infrastructure im-

provements, and building a new maintenance depot for the new rolling stock.

"This is the latest in a long and continuing line of projects in Network SouthEast's major modernization programme," Mr Parkinson said. He said the programme represented more than £1 billion in overall investment. "The equivalent of at least £400 a year for every rail commuter into London," he said.

Welcoming Mr Parkinson's announcement, Mr David Kirby, British Rail's vice-chairman, said the decision was an "historic date for Network SouthEast customers." He said the package would provide rail travellers with "the best commuter trains in Europe."

Mr Parkinson later rejected, as "complete rubbish," allegations that the new investment was simply "fattening up British Rail before being hived-off into the private

sector after the next general election."

Mr John Prescott, the Shadow Transport Secretary, condemned the meanness of the new spending on BR's Network SouthEast before the announcement was made officially.

He said the new stock to be introduced was welcome but was designed to take more passengers standing up.

Since the government was insisting that BR produce higher returns and cut subsidies, the passengers would have to meet the cost of the new trains in higher fares, so that they would be paying more for standing up. Mr Peter Snape, another Labour spokesman, said: "When it comes to public relations, Cecil Parkinson leaves Paul Channon standing."

Mr Prescott told a press conference: "All that Mr Parkinson is

announcing is that BR is to be allowed to spend some of the money that it has raised from higher fares and increased overcrowding. It does not require Mr Parkinson to increase Government spending by a single penny and it does not begin to tackle the scale of the crisis on Network SouthEast."

He challenged Mr Parkinson to announce three measures to show he was prepared to take tough financial decisions to tackle the transport crisis in the South East.

He said Mr Parkinson should announce no further cuts in the rail subsidy, already low compared with other European countries, and that it would be increased to reduce congestion; that BR would not increase rail fares more than the rate of inflation since Britain's rail fares were already a third more expensive than any European country; and the go-ahead for a new cross-London

link, outlined in the Central London Rail Study.

London Underground is to spend £300 million on 85 "new generation" trains as part of its modernization programme for the Central Line.

The contract for the new trains — the largest placed by London Underground — has gone to BREL Limited, the Derby-based former publically owned engineering arm of British Rail.

The new trains will have smoother acceleration and braking, higher top speeds, wider passenger-operated external sliding doors, and will be longer.

The trains are expected to come into service between 1991 and 1995, and will also feature passenger-to-driver emergency communication facilities; and closed-circuit television to enable train drivers to monitor the platforms.

UDR man in protective custody after allegations

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

A member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, who was known to a Catholic murder victim, has been taken into "protective custody" by the police as an RUC investigation continued into claims that Army or police intelligence files had been used by a "loyalist" terrorist group to pinpoint the victim.

It is understood the UDR member was taken into custody on Saturday morning, just hours after Loughlin Maginn, a father of four, was shot dead in his home in Rathfriland, Co. Down. It is thought that the soldier held a long-time grudge against Maginn and may have been the intended victim of a failed IRA car bombing attempt three weeks ago.

There were fears for the soldier's safety as rumours spread of possible Republican retaliation for Maginn's murder amid allegations the UDR or police had colluded with a terrorist organization in carrying out the killing. Maginn's murder has been the subject of a mounting political crisis in the province after the outlawed Ulster Freedom Fighters — the military wing of the Ulster Defence Association — disclosed it had killed him after identifying him as an IRA suspect on intelligence files supplied by the security forces.

Maginn's family and Sinn Féin have denied that he was a member of Sinn Féin or the IRA. The police investigation into the leak of information is expected to focus on the RUC and the UDR, which has a long record of individual members working closely with "loyalist" terrorist groups. Mr Rory McShane, the dead man's solicitor, is to hand

over a series of files which he said detailed harassment of Maginn by the security forces and the UDR, going back to 1986.

Mr McShane said the files in his possession contained complaints and confidential instructions from his client, which his wife had authorized him to hand over to police.

The files claim three alleged incidents. In 1987, Maginn, a poultry farmer, alleged he was stopped repeatedly and unnecessarily by an Army patrol in Rathfriland. He claimed a vehicle check point was deliberately moved after stopping him with the intention of carrying out a further check a matter of yards up the street.

In August, 1988, Maginn was arrested and taken to an Army barracks, where his clothes were subject to a forensic examination. He was never charged, but his clothing was held for five weeks before being returned.

In November, 1988, Mr McShane said his client came to him in a very distressed state after being stopped and allegedly harassed by a UDR patrol.

In a letter of complaint to the regiment, Maginn quoted a UDR soldier as telling him: "I will stiff you if I get the chance."

Mr McShane said the UDR replied in June this year, indicating it had located the patrol and the soldier involved. It said the soldier involved had denied any responsibility for the alleged threat.

Mr McShane said his client's wife had persuaded Maginn that they should leave Northern Ireland for a new life in the Republic just days before he was killed because of their fears.

Custody order for Newcombe

ADRIAN BROOKS



Police flanking Brian Newcombe, covered with a blanket, after he was remanded in police custody until Monday by magistrates in Skipton, North Yorkshire, yesterday. He was charged with murdering Jack Shattleworth, aged

88, at Ingletton, North Yorkshire, on or about August 3. Newcombe, aged 51, of Springfield Street, Huthwaite, Saton-in-Ashfield, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, spoke only three times to acknowledge his name, age and address

during the five-minute hearing. Reporting restrictions were not lifted and there was no application for bail. Mr Ian Yates applied for the remand because police wish to interview Newcombe in relation to other alleged offences.

Teaching shortage

Vacant posts 'have doubled'

By David Tytler, Education Editor

The dispute over teacher shortages continued yesterday with the Labour Party accusing the Government of complacency. It said schools in England and Wales would be short of 4,700 permanent teachers — over double last year's shortfall — when the term begins next week.

Mr Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said a survey of 30 of the 104 local education authorities indicated that the figure a year ago was 1,854.

The Government says it has no comparable figures but insists its own survey of 72 authorities shows that more than half said the situation was no worse. The Government estimates there will be no more than 3,500 vacancies next week but says these will be covered by supply teachers.

Mr Straw said it was unacceptable for children to be taught by supply teachers or staff untrained in the subjects they were being asked to teach. He said the situation would have been much worse without "first aid" measures such as the employment of foreign teachers.

Mr Straw said: "All we have got from the Government is a string of complacent platitudes or deafening silence."

"Children may not be sent home at the beginning of term, although I have always be-

lieved the situation is likely to get worse during the year. But if they are not it will be due to first aid measures taken by teachers and local authorities and no thanks to the Government. Many children will be taught by supply teachers or staff from abroad who will not have been trained in Britain or have experience of teaching in Britain."

"It is obviously unsatisfactory that teachers not trained in Britain will be going to work in schools with the most stressful and difficult conditions, to take jobs that no British teachers will take."

Mr Straw said he was also concerned about the increasing number of teachers who were switching jobs either to other schools or out of teaching. Labour's figures showed that 32,000 teachers resigned from their schools at the end of last term, affecting at least half a million schoolchildren.

"This is particularly disruptive to heads who do not know until the last moment whether they will be able to fill all their posts and causes great concern to parents and children in primary schools who are particularly upset by this

disruption. Our figures show that this appears to be worse than in previous years," he said. A spokesman for the Department of Education said the resignation numbers for this year were no worse than usual. He said: "Even if they are 32,000, which we doubt, it is still less than 10 per cent, which is a common figure."

Mr Straw has written to Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, demanding details of the department's survey. He said: "The lack of consistent, comprehensive information on teacher shortages is appalling. There must be a thorough overhaul of the department's collection of statistics on teacher shortages."

Mr Straw accepted that pay was not the only reason for the shortage but said a Labour government would improve pay and national agreements on housing allowances for areas such as London and the South-east, although he refused to name a figure.

He said: "We would seek a significant improvement in the pay of teachers to make the career a more attractive one and to counter the extraordinary complacency of this Government."

The State of Schools 1988-89 (Labour Party, 130 Watford Road London SE 17 1JT).

Decline in strength of forces

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The total strength of the armed forces dropped by 3,843 to 307,806 in the quarter to June as the services began to feel the effects of the fall in the numbers of school-leavers.

The Ministry of Defence said of the underlying 0.9 per cent drop over three months: "This unplanned reduction in strength is a reflection of increasing outflow and difficulties in increasing recruitment sufficiently to compensate."

An MoD spokesman added: "The demographic trough will affect all employers and I think this is one effect of it." The latest figures are bound to increase pressure on the Government to improve pay rates in the forces. They show that the total intake to the armed forces during the last quarter was 6,691, 15 per cent lower than in the equivalent period in the previous year.

However, about 1,000 of this reduction was due to a later joining date for junior entries to the Army, and the MoD said that when this was taken into account the fall was "marginal."

Total outflow from the forces was 10,642, 18 per cent higher than in the same quarter of 1988, underlining the MoD's difficulties in keeping the services up to strength in a tightening labour market.

Intake of servicemen fell by 23 per cent on the previous year, but this was partly offset by a 70 per cent rise in the number of servicewomen and an increase in officers.

The intake of male officers grew by 104 to 526, with manpower being boosted in the Army and Royal Air Force, but declining slightly in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

The September issue of *Es* contains the text of the essay on "The End of History," by Dr Francis Fukuyama, as reported yesterday. It will assess the work.

Contact lens trouble is blamed on VDUs

Electromagnetic radiation from computer terminals can cause severe physical deformations on certain types of contact lenses, according to a report in an electronics industry journal.

The problem affects gas permeable contact lenses. It is the first time a direct physical effect has been observed from the use of VDUs, according to *Electronics Times*.

Gas permeable contact lenses are growing more popular and account for about 40 per cent of the British contact lens market, the journal says.

It reveals that a link between prolonged work with computer terminals and an accumulation of microscopic growths on the surface of gas

permeable lenses was discovered by Miss Anne Arnold-Silk, a contact lens practitioner and member of the General Optical Council. She found that an increasing number of people had problems with the lenses which were affected with myriads of tiny growths over the surface.

Miss Arnold-Silk found that all the patients complaining were in jobs where they sat at a computer screen all day.

The link was finally proven when a new lens was accidentally left for a few days on a fluorescent lamp next to the starter, a strong generator of electromagnetic fields. The lens showed the same outgrowths as the lenses of VDU users.

The National Rivers Authority, the Government's water pollution watchdog, will start work today amid calls to make the problem of excessive water abstraction from rivers a first priority.

In a letter to Lord Crickhowell, chairman of the authority, the Council for the Protection of Rural England says the problem is now acute in a number of rivers.

Mr Andrew Purkis, director of the council, added: "Some have been reduced virtually to a trickle. Too much water is being taken from groundwaters resulting in the drying up of river beds and losses to wildlife and landscape beauty."

The council is asking the authority to review licences for

Plea to new authority

Rivers 'lose too much water'

By Michael Horsnell

water abstraction by the old water authorities to farmers, developers and industry where there is evidence of a problem.

Under the Water Act, 1989, the authority is taking over the regulatory functions of the 10 water authorities in England and Wales, which are being privatized. The Government has argued that providers of water services should not police themselves and be "poacher and gamekeeper" at the same time.

Lord Crickhowell has promised to maintain the authority's independence from direct political control.

Mr Purkis said: "This is both a key test case for the authority's independence and a prime opportunity for it to show that it can deliver the

goods on environmental protection."

"The authority has a duty under the Water Act to further the conservation and amenity of water courses. Under these new responsibilities it cannot stand back and watch the disappearance of wildlife and the loss of the beauty and amenity from our much-loved rivers."

The rivers authority will consider whether to prosecute Shell UK over the recent oil spillage from its pipeline in the Mersey estuary.

A warning notice has been sent to the company but a final decision on prosecution is likely to be made by Lord Crickhowell and his chief executive, Dr John Bowman.

MPs in moves to curb low-flying jets

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

MPs are to redouble their efforts to persuade the Ministry of Defence to restrict RAF low-flying sorties over remote parts of the country, it was disclosed yesterday.

An all-party group, including the former Liberal leader Mr David Steel, is to meet Lord Arran, an Under-Secretary of State for Defence, in October to urge the Government to reconsider the matter. The Defence Select Committee of MPs has already announced an inquiry into low-flying exercises by fast military jets and will question the RAF about its monitoring arrangements.

Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, whose constituency includes a large part of the Borders tactical low-flying

area, yesterday issued details of five case studies to illustrate the "increasing danger, disturbance and nuisance" caused by the exercises.

A woman aged 70, who had lived through the Blitz and retired to the country in search of peace and quiet, fell to the ground screaming after RAF Tornados passed above her at heights below 100 feet. Days later, she was still shaken.

Mr Foulkes also cited the case of a startled constituent who fell from a ladder and broke his leg.

The MP said: "There is increasing scepticism about the justification for these low-flying exercises at a time of increasing debate and greater concern over the environmental, health and safety implications."

CORRECTIONS

The Law Society wants cash or property exempt from legal aid clawback, under which successful divorce litigants often pay fees out of their settlements, raised from £2,500 to £7,500. We said wrongly yesterday that it wanted the higher figure to be deductible from a settlement.

The September issue of *Es* contains the text of the essay on "The End of History," by Dr Francis Fukuyama, as reported yesterday. It will assess the work.

Mafi
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Writs launch

South Bank's fo

Society told

Mafia 'was to have got £8m pay-off in £23m Britoil fraud'

By Kerry Gill

The Mafia was to be the major beneficiary of a £23million fraud at the Britoil oil company, according to Miss Alison Anders, the former accounts assistant who has admitted her part in one of the biggest attempted swindles in British history.

The international crime organization would have received £8million for its part in setting up laundering arrangements to get the money out of a Swiss bank account, the High Court in Aberdeen was told yesterday.

Miss Anders, aged 31, who was giving evidence for the prosecution against Mr Royston Allen, who denies the attempted swindle, said she and Mr Allen, her former lover, were to get about £5million each. Their Middle Eastern accomplices were to receive amounts ranging from £3million to £500,000.

She also alleged that the manager of the Banque Romande de Genève in Geneva had already been given a \$500,000 bribe to deliver the £23million in foreign currency to the conspirators.

She said that when the fraud attempt failed she fled to Abu Dhabi to join Mr Allen and the other plotters. Their Middle Eastern accomplices, however, were desperate to get Miss Anders out of the country to cover up their tracks.

She said that when she at first refused, she was threatened with death. Her conspirators had accused her and her lover of attempting to double-cross them and were furious, warning her that the "Italian boys" were behind the deal.

Miss Anders was given a ticket via Singapore to Vancouver. She was told she should disappear into the United States using her fake passport under the name of Ann Killick - a girl who died in 1971.

In the United States she became desperate for money and telephoned Mr Allen who had returned to Aberdeen, the home of the Britoil headquarters where she had worked. He sent her \$500, she said. She then shared an apartment in Portland, Oregon, and got a cleaning job.

Miss Anders said she had become close to breaking point and this spring was considering giving herself up. However, in May she was

● I realized it was the most ghastly mess imaginable ●

arrested by the FBI. She waived her right to fight extradition proceedings and was brought back to Britain where she was charged.

Earlier in her evidence, Miss Anders said that she had found out that a £23million payment was to be made by Britoil together with the Esso and Shell companies for the annual lease of a drilling rig. She said she jokingly mentioned it to Mr Allen.

She said that Mr Allen later went to Abu Dhabi on business. After one visit he came back and said if I were willing, it might be possible to make a transmission of the funds. She agreed to be part of the

plot and, in order to disappear if the plot were a success, she obtained a passport in the name of Ann Killick. She also renewed her own passport so she could fly to Amsterdam under her own name once the plot was under way.

At the Britoil offices, she partially destroyed a bank payment instruction for the £23million to be paid to Lombard North Central and substituted a fake International Payment Application telling the Bank of Scotland to pay the money to the conspirators' Swiss account.

On top of the payment details she noted that payment must be made urgently. "I must have been rather over-anxious," she said. The court has heard how a bank official in Glasgow was worried by the note and raised the alarm.

On the day she was due to flee the country, however, the Esso company told Britoil that it was not happy with its part of the payment and her superior at Britoil said the genuine payment should be recalled and reissued.

But she had partially destroyed this document and took flight. "I realized it was the most ghastly mess imaginable."

Instead of taking a flight under her own name to Amsterdam, she flew to Abu Dhabi using Ann Killick's passport. The case continues today.

● A case alleging contempt of court against today newspaper involving the case was adjourned yesterday by Lord Morton at the High Court in Aberdeen.

Focusing on the birds



Mrs Margaret Thatcher getting a close-up of a swallow at the Lodge, set in a 100-acre nature reserve in Sanday, Bedfordshire, when she toured the headquarters of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds yesterday. She met Mr Magnus Magnusson, the society's president, and Mr Ian Presti, its director general, and said after her visit, during which she met children making wooden bird boxes: "It is very impressive. I have enjoyed it tremendously."

Father aged 17 denied custody of his baby son

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

An unmarried father aged 17 was told yesterday that he was too young to bring up his son, aged five months, on his own.

Two judges at the Court of Appeal in London said that although the teenager was "sincere and genuine" in his desire to bring up his child with the support of his own parents, it was in the baby's best interests for him to be adopted by a couple so he would have two parents.

Lord Justice Purchas and Lord Justice Parker dismissed a claim brought by the father, who is now on a Youth Training Scheme course, for custody of the child.

The mother, aged 16, is now studying for her A levels and the relationship ended some time ago.

After the baby was born both parents decided it should be adopted and the baby was sent to foster parents when he was three weeks old. The father subsequently changed his mind and decided, with his parents' backing, that he wanted to bring up his son and began legal action to claim custody.

However, the Court of Appeal upheld a decision by Judge Brunning on August 3 at Lincoln County Court that the father should not be granted custody.

The appeal court's decision was criticized by the Family Rights Group. "It seems grossly unfair that a judge is making the decision purely on the father's age that the baby would be better off with an older couple, if that is the case," Miss Mary Ryan, the solicitor for the group, said.

There were no clear guidelines governing custody cases

or adoption law, she said. Under the Children Bill, the court has to use value judgements based on the welfare of the child to make its decision, but no account is taken of the parents' wishes.

Under existing legislation an unmarried father can apply for custody but he cannot take part in subsequent adoption proceedings.

The county court judge had described the father as being "devoted to the idea" of bringing up his child. He also pointed out the support the teenager had from "a caring family who would provide for the child both materially and in terms of love and affection".

Giving judgement yesterday, Lord Justice Purchas

● He may develop interests at odds with duties to his son ●

said the court had to weigh all the factors, but said the immaturity of the father was at the centre of the case.

"However genuine and sincere the father may be at this moment, within a matter of a very few years and long before the child has reached his teens, the father may well have other interests which, with all the best will in the world, will conflict with his duties to his son."

The judge added that the risk of the father acquiring other interests, such as looking for a life partner and coping with growing-up himself, would mean the grandparents would be left to play an increasing role in bringing up the child.

Writs launch 'cancer plant' test cases

By Richard Ford and Ronald Faux

Writs will be issued today for test cases against British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, alleging that radioactive emissions from its Sellafield reprocessing plant have caused leukaemia.

Four families who lived near the plant on the west Cumbrian coast have been granted legal aid to bring the cases, which could result in

extensive six-figure damages for one family and similar legal action by people living near other plants.

Mr Martyn Day, the solicitor acting on behalf of the families, said the writs would allege that BNFL was in breach of its statutory duty as laid down by parliament. Section 7 of the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 says it has a

statutory responsibility not to cause damage to persons or property as a result of radioactive emissions.

He said they would be arguing that it was incontrovertible that there was a link between Sellafield and the incidences of leukaemia, but the crucial argument was whether they were caused by radioactive emissions.

Two of the cancer victims, Dorothy Reay and Ian Renwick, have died while Gemma D'Arcy, aged five, suffers from chronic myeloid leukaemia, and Vivien Hope, aged 24, suffers from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma of the spine and has partial paralysis.

The court case is unlikely to be heard at the High Court in London for two years. It results from an advertisement placed by Mr Day's firm in a local newspaper, which attracted replies from 35 families.

Initially, legal aid was refused following an intervention by BNFL solicitors but after an appeal it was offered to 18 families, and four were chosen for the test case on the basis of closeness to the plant, whether their parents worked at it, their closeness to the coast, and the amount of time they spent on the beach. A

spokesman for BNFL said: "We will strongly contest the litigation, believing as we have all along that the threatened action is unfounded."

"We have every sympathy for those suffering from leukaemia and the families, but the company has no sympathy at all with the way others have chosen to use them and wrongly raise their hopes and expectations."

"There is no proven link between BNFL activities and childhood leukaemia in the Sellafield area."

"Independent experts have expressed doubt that it can be caused by discharges from nuclear plants."

The four Cumbria families welcomed the decision that would allow the case to be heard in court.

Mrs Monica Hope, of Lingnell Crescent, Seascale, said that her daughter Vivien was glad that any link between the cases of leukaemia and the BNFL plant would be questioned in court.

She said Vivien was born at Drigg, about five miles from the nuclear plant, and had since lived with her family at Seascale within sight of the plant before developing lymphoma 18 months ago, which left her partially paralysed.

Ambulance blocks runway

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A London ambulance taking a patient to hospital strayed on to the main runway at Heathrow Airport and forced a Lufthansa jet to abort its landing as it approached the runway at more than 150 miles an hour.

The ambulance had picked up a sick passenger from the central terminal area of the world's busiest international airport on Tuesday morning and was supposed to drive with sirens blaring to Ashford Hospital near by.

The driver became disoriented, missed the normal route out of the central area under the road tunnel and drove across runway 27 Right, which was being used to land a constant stream of aircraft.

A controller in the tower noticed the danger and ordered the pilot of Lufthansa flight LH 1650 from Hamburg to Heathrow to abandon his attempt at landing when he was one mile from touchdown at a height of almost 400 feet and 30 seconds from landing.

The Boeing 727, with 93 passengers on board, immediately climbed away as the terrified ambulance crew raced for the nearest exit. As they approached an emergency exit on the North side of the airport earmarked as a rendezvous point after accidents, they were stopped by police.

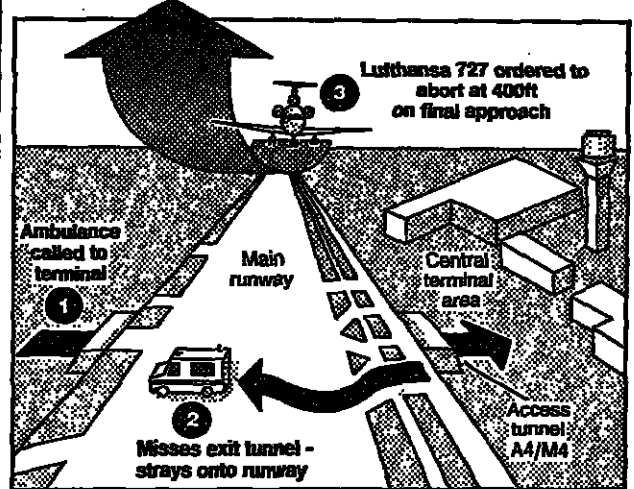
When the officers saw the patient in the back they ordered the ambulance to drive on, deliver the patient and return for more detailed questioning.

The driver was temporarily suspended while an investigation was launched by the Civil Aviation Authority but was later allowed to return to full driving duties, although banned from entering the airport.

Chief Inspector Ken Wise, of Heathrow police, said an investigation was under way.

A spokesman for the London Ambulance Service said there was a special procedure for drivers to adopt at Heathrow.

The driver of the ambulance was a regular at Heathrow and had an airside pass.



South Bank's foiling plans

The South Bank centre administration is expected to use contractors to foil union plans to disrupt next week's opening of the Andy Warhol exhibition at the Hayward Gallery (Simon Tait writes).

A 24-hour strike by the 300 staff members, the first at the South Bank, has been called for today, following a ballot which showed a 90 per cent vote in favour of strike action, with working to rule during the weekend.

The dispute is over a national Civil Service agreement for pay increases of 6 to 12 per cent. The South Bank Board, which was not signatories to the national agreement, has offered 6 to 10 per cent with the highest increases going to the lower paid.

The Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union and the

National Union of Civil and Public Servants are expected to call on members to target specific events, the first being the Warhol exhibition.

"It would normally be the job of our members to put up the exhibition," Mr Haminder Singh, of the MSFU, said. "But we hear on the grapevine that the board are intending to use contractors to mount it."

Mr Singh said the targeting was being done to embarrass the management as much as possible without unduly disrupting the public enjoyment of events, and that it was intended to hit at the private view of the exhibition on Tuesday evening, which 2,000 guests are expected to attend.

"We won't be able to make them cancel it at this stage, but it may be that these important

and influential guests will only be able to see half the exhibition because the rest won't be hung," he said.

However, Mr Richard Palford, general administrator of the South Bank Centre, who has led the management side in negotiations, would not reveal how it was intended to combat the action.

"There are a number of contingency plans which may or may not include using contractors," he said, adding that cancelling the private view had not been ruled out.

The two sides are due to meet this morning to discuss "ground rules for industrial action". Mr Palford said staff had refused to take the matter to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

The staff will meet again on Tuesday.

Sky TV campaign

£21m launch for subscription package

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

Sky Television is to use a £21 million advertising campaign, thought to be the biggest media launch in Britain, to promote its direct access package.

Subscribers will be able to obtain Sky satellite dishes with equipment, installation and maintenance for a weekly subscription of £4.49.

A Sky commercial is to be broadcast from tomorrow. About £6 million will be spent in the first four weeks on television and press advertising, and £10 million by the end of the year. The £21 million budget covers a year's marketing.

Mr Andrew Neil, chief executive of Sky, said: "We aim in the months ahead to capitalize on the rising tide behind Sky Television. We have the market to ourselves for the next few months and we mean to take advantage of it."

The purchasing scheme will com-

plement the existing facility of buying or renting equipment. Mr Neil said the subscription system was expected to take the mystery out of satellite television for those still confused by the technology, and to make access to it easier.

He said research had shown that potential Sky users were worried by the high initial cost of buying the kit - about £300 - and distrusted new technology because of the danger of it changing after they had committed themselves.

The package includes installation of the dish, receiver, remote control device, decoder and "smart card" which unlocks the decoder. Up to 75,000 additional homes could receive Sky through the subscription package.

The Sky Movies channel is to be scrambled from February 1, with access only through a decoder and smart card. Existing dish owners will have to hire cards but a special package for them is to

be announced next week. The other three channels, Skynews, Sky One and Eurosport, will not be scrambled.

Ms Pat Mastandrea, Sky's joint managing director, said that of the 800,000 households already receiving the four Sky channels (175,000 via satellite, the rest through cable) 81 per cent said they were satisfied with the programming, 60 per cent thought it complemented the existing BBC and ITV channels and 40 per cent watched Sky instead of the existing channels.

● Sir Clive Sinclair's company Cambridge Computer is launching a new satellite dish to mark the company's marketing partnership with Sky Television. The smaller, streamlined dish is to be one of two satellite systems to be marketed by Sky in the new subscription package. It will be compatible with existing television sets and capable of receiving up to 48 channels.

Police in talks on 'crack'

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

Senior police and Customs drug investigators from across Britain met yesterday for a briefing on "crack", the addictive cocaine derivative, and its threat to the country.

The conference, held in private and called by the Association of Chief Police Officers, is likely to hear reports from officers who have visited the US to study the problem.

They include Mr David Owen, chief constable of North Wales and chairman of the association's crime committee. He is chairing the conference, held at the Lancashire police training school near Preston.

The aim of the conference is to make operational investigators familiar with the drug, its identification and manufacture. A desk has been set up by the National Drugs Intelligence Unit in London to collate information on the drug.

PORTFOLIO BOND

Four readers shared yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Bond Prize. One, Dr Jeremy Gerhardt, of Tadworth, Surrey, won with each of his two Portfolio cards.

Dr Gerhardt, retired chief executive of the Royal Mint, won £200. The other winners who received £400 each, were Mr Mike John, of Chelmsford, Essex, Mrs Sue Mundy-Jones, of Orpington, Kent, and Mrs Gladys Hopkinson, of Wimborne, Dorset.

No bonds were redeemed.

Wartime souvenir

Readers can obtain a free reprint of the issue of *The Times* of September 4, 1939, by sending a self-addressed envelope (12½in by 9½in minimum), bearing a 25p stamp, to *The Times* 1939, PO Box 480, London E1 9DN.

Law Society told to cut paperwork

By Richard Ford, Legal Affairs Reporter

The Law Society was yesterday urged to launch a campaign to save paper after a survey showed its employees have been using over 60 sheets each a day.

The survey found the organization used 9.5 million sheets of paper a year and that considerable savings could be made by standardizing stationery. That worked out at 18,846 sheets a year at a cost of £24.50 for each of the society's 500 staff. The total cost of stationery, including items such as pens, was £384 a year, with non-paper items accounting for 78 per cent of total stationery expenditure.

There were 12 types of general paper and seven types of computer listing paper in the society's print room and in the stationery store 18 different types of envelope, five types of writing pads, three memo pads and four scrap pads.

The survey criticized the use of memos and suggested that people make short telephone calls instead, which "would prove more effective" in relaying information.

It found that 36 per cent of memos received by one employee during a period of six months had been sent by members of staff within the same department and that

they had not contained significant technical information. Inefficient use of paper included using A4 paper to send short notes thanking people for memos, too many copies of memos being made, sending minutes of a meeting to a committee member to gain approval before the next meeting and too many drafts.

Mr Mathew Taylor, author of the report, *The Way Forward*, said that "inefficient methods were present in the society relating to information transmission using a paper medium".

He concluded that the report had confirmed "the commonly held belief that the

society does generate significant levels of waste. This waste results in excess expenditure and impedes effective communication."

Mr Taylor criticized purchasing arrangements. He said the prices paid for certain types of paper were not as competitive as they should have been and said that standardization of stock would result in considerable savings.

The report said an average memo took 15 minutes to produce and cost £6.29. If 100 were produced a day, the annual cost would be £134,606.

The report took 11 pages of A4 paper.

100 stricken in rare Q-fever outbreak

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

More than 100 people have been affected by an unexplained outbreak of a rare and potentially fatal disease called Q fever, doctors report today.

The outbreak is believed to be the biggest of its kind to have occurred in Britain. The illness, similar to viral pneumonia, caused about 85 sufferers to be admitted to hospital, some with serious symptoms including rapid weight loss, high fever and hepatitis.

The epidemic was confined to the Birmingham area and lasted three months, but specialists investigating it say in *The Lancet* today that they can find no clues to the source.

Some of the most seriously ill patients lost 15 pounds in a week, as a result of high fever and profuse sweating. Most had pneumonia and many complained

of headaches; for some, recovery has taken at least three months.

The disease is caused by *coxiella burnetii*, an organism that is intermediate between a bacterium and a virus. It was called Q fever by an Australian doctor who discovered it in Queensland in 1937, but who gave it the initial to represent the query over its cause. It is contracted by inhaling the organism and usually affects people working with sheep and goats, or in abattoirs.

Specialists were alerted in April and May when GPs and hospital clinicians in Birmingham noticed an unusual number of pneumonia cases. Patients were treated with antibiotics but many, including young and previously fit men, took more than three months to recover. The outbreak has been investigated by a team at the East Birmingham Hospital, led by Dr Grace Smith, a consultant microbiologist, and scientists in the

Public Health Laboratory Service have been involved. They have found no evidence that the disease has spread.

● The case of a woman who died suddenly after being on the very-low calorie "Cambridge diet" for six weeks is reported in *The Lancet*. The woman, aged 59, had lost 22 pounds and had complained of headache and dizziness a few days before her death, which was probably due to heart failure, according to Dr Charles Eugene Connolly, a pathologist at University College Hospital, Galway, the Irish Republic.

● Some types of pain killers used by arthritis sufferers may make the condition worse, doctors say in *The Lancet*. A study of 105 patients awaiting hip joint replacements has shown that those who were taking indomethacin anti-inflammatory drugs needed the operations sooner than patients receiving other drugs for the same ailment.

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for army recruits

Hospital patients not to blame over appointments waste

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Unkept hospital appointments are usually due to poor management or lack of resources rather than the patient's fault, according to a survey published today.

The study shows that although patients get blamed for wasting resources because they fail to turn up for appointments, in more than a third of non-admissions the hospital itself had cancelled the booking because of a lack of empty beds.

"The problem is not patients causing empty beds or under-used theatre sessions so much as unavailable beds or theatre sessions preventing patients from being admitted," the report, in the latest edition of the *British Medical Journal*, says.

A further tenth of cases could have been predicted by the hospital because the patient had already been admitted and a third of patients had given the hospital enough warning to book an alternative patient, it says.

The research, headed by Dr Stephen Frankel, from the Department of Epidemiology and Community Medicine at the University of Wales, Cardiff, was initiated after one health authority reported a non-admission rate of 28 per cent.

A previous inquiry had suggested that between 10 per cent and 12 per cent of booked

in-patients failed to turn up for appointments. The study investigated a three-month admission period at a general hospital where 617 patients (28 per cent) failed to attend out of 2,242 bookings.

Of those, 208 bookings had been cancelled because of a

The Government's plan to introduce market forces into general practice is unlikely to work because people tend to choose the nearest rather than the best doctor, another study in the *British Medical Journal* concludes.

A survey of 791 people at five practices showed that 44 per cent chose their nearest GP and 32 per cent because the practice had been recommended.

Only 4 per cent had compared several practices. More than 80 per cent had changed doctors because they had moved.

Almost half of all patients only registered on becoming ill, most knew nothing about their new practice and showed little desire to know more.

lack of beds or theatres, and for 62 bookings the patients had already been admitted.

Sixteen per cent of bookings (347) failed for reasons "that might reasonably be attributed to patients" though in two thirds of those cases

patients had given enough notice for an alternative booking to be made.

A follow-up questionnaire study of 246 patients (some of the failed bookings were for the same patient) showed that the patient failed to show up without notifying the hospital in advance in only 1 to 3 per cent of all booked admissions.

"High non-admission rates are often held to imply a troublesome amount of indifference to clinical and administrative concerns on the part of patients," the report goes on.

"Our study, however, showed that little of the overall problem of non-admission could be attributed to indifference on the part of patients."

The report concludes that the pursuit of efficiency — to minimize unused facilities — could conflict with the aim of minimizing inconvenience to patients.

It also suggests that professionals prefer to find external explanations for problems rather than reviewing the system itself.

"Our findings suggest that concern with those factors attributable to patients outside the immediate influence of management require less attention than those inadequacies in the management of inpatient and outpatient bookings."

Historic Uppark house reduced to ruin

PETER TREWICK



The seventeenth-century house before and after the fire which destroyed the building and some of its contents.

Firemen yesterday were still tackling the fire that left Uppark, one of Britain's finest seventeenth-century houses, in ruins (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The house, which has remained almost unchanged since Nelson and Wellington stayed there, is owned by the National Trust, which hinted that it might rebuild.

A deep-seated fire was still burning under the rubble yesterday after 150 firemen worked through the night to quench the flames that started in the roof of the hilltop mansion near South Harting in the Sussex Downs.

A National Trust spokesman said: "It is absolutely incredible that we have managed to get the contents out."

She said the house had a fire protection system and that 90 per cent of the contents had been saved by the "brave efforts" of the fire brigade officers.

Two paintings by Luca Giordano, which were screwed to walls, and several paintings by Pompeo Batoni were rescued and suffered no water damage, although valuable tables by Scagliola, the furniture maker, were lost.

Most of the eighteenth-century furniture, porcelain,

tapestries and carpets were saved but valuable fireplaces, chandeliers and ceilings were destroyed.

"The overall value of the ensemble was priceless. It is very difficult to say what is going to happen now, it's early days," she said.

Mr Peter Pearce, a National Trust land agent, said: "I am convinced we will rebuild. We don't want Uppark to die."

Builders had been restoring the roof for more than a year and work was due to be completed today.

The fire has destroyed the roof, the second floor and much of the first floor and several walls are in danger of collapse.

The ground floor was set alight when a large chimney crashed through two floors early yesterday.

Mrs Harriet Cosart, a grand-daughter of Admiral Herbert Meade-Featherstonhaugh, who gave Uppark to the National Trust in 1954, was evacuated with her husband, still in their ground-floor flat. As she watched the blaze she pointed up and said: "That was my bedroom."

Her husband looked at the shell and said: "There's your comment. Look at it."

Weekend food prices

Pork the answer to roasting problems

For shoppers looking for a really economical roasting joint this weekend, pork is the answer.

Sweet boneless shoulders of pork are down to an average price of £1.39 a lb, and supermarket prices for rolled stuffed belly of pork are as low as 94p a lb. Boneless spare rib chops are also worth buying at £1.44 a lb.

British leg of lamb continues to drop in price to a national average of £1.76 a lb for whole leg and £1.88 a lb for fillet end. Shoulder joints are retailing at £1 a lb.

Beef prices vary throughout the country. Braising steak is down to around £2.13 a lb.

Fish is readily available at reasonable prices. Haddock fillets are down to around £2.70 a lb while cod and plaice fillets are about £2.50 a lb.

Cabbages, sprouts and broccoli are plentiful. New-crop English carrots at 15p to 25p a lb are a good buy along with hispi and primo cabbages at 15p to 25p a lb and white and red cabbage at 20p to 30p a lb.

Courgettes, broccoli and marrow are good quality and well-priced while onions are 14p to 25p a lb and mushrooms can be found for as little as 35p for ½ lb. Sweetcorn is at 15p to 28p a cob and cauliflowers at 40p to 80p.

Cucumbers are the week's top salad choice, priced from 30p to 60p each. Celery is 30p to 60p a head and watercress 30p to 40p a bunch.

Bramley cooking apples are 25p to 45p a lb. Worcester's are 30p to 45p a lb and French apples and pears are retailing around 40p a lb. Honeydew melons are 50p to £1 each and seedless grapes at 70p to £1 a lb are splendid. Star buys include pineapples at 60p to £2 each and top-quality bananas at 35p to 50p a lb.

This week's best offers include Tesco's boneless rolled stuffed belly of pork at 94p a lb, Sainsbury's fresh chicken quarters at 88p a lb, whole leg of lamb at £1.44 a lb at Safeway's and Presto, and beef topside or silverside at £2.27 a lb at Asda.

Toxic waste bag scare

Mr Dafydd Wigley, MP for Caernarfon, yesterday demanded an inquiry into how an empty toxic waste bag from a power station came to be washed up on Criccieth beach, north Wales.

It was labelled "harmful by inhalation, do not breathe dust". The Central Electricity Generating Board said the bag may have been wrongly used for non-toxic waste and blown off an open skip. It said bags of toxic waste were transported in sealed containers and "do not go missing en route".

More charges

Mr Frederick Foreman, accused of a £5.9 million robbery in east London, was yesterday also charged with dishonestly handling £363,280 and dishonestly obtaining a passport.

Police accused

A police officer in Telford, Shropshire, has been suspended and charged with serious sexual offences after complaints by a woman in police custody.

Drugs case

Committal proceedings began yesterday against Mr Soo Soobiah, the former Mauritius High Commissioner in London, of Camberley, Surrey, who is accused of laundering drug trafficking proceeds.

Swans killed

A gamekeeper who shot dead four swans on the river Test, near Romsey, Hampshire, was yesterday fined £1,000.

Hardy trees

Scientists at Leicester Polytechnic are trying to produce a tree which will be resistant to acid rain.

Co-ed school

Marlborough College will go fully co-educational for the first time when the new term starts on Tuesday.

Ale success

The Reepham Brewery at Reepham, Norfolk, claims to have produced the first low alcohol real ale. It is 2 per cent proof.

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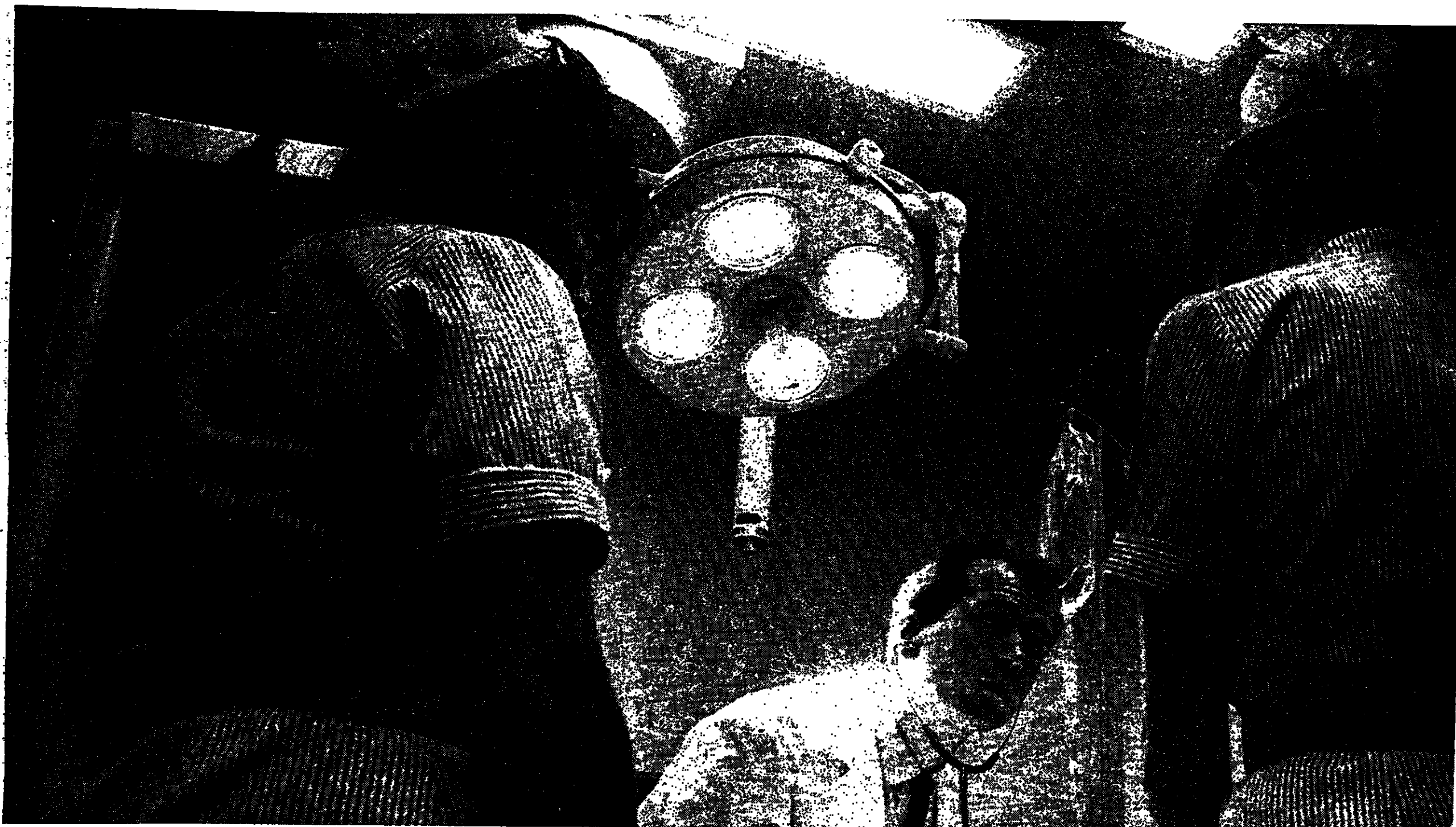
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Today's new law means children must use rear seat belts where fitted.

Otherwise you risk a £50 fine.

But the real cost could be far greater.



All too often, it's the children who pay the price in road accidents.

You might think they're perfectly safe in the back of a car.

In a crash or a shunt, a child can easily be catapulted onto the dashboard, or even through the windscreen.

Even at speeds as low as 25mph.

The results can be horrific. Over 60 children are killed, and 7,000 injured in this way each year.

It's senseless carnage, and that's why there's now **a law** about it.

Starting today, if your car has rear seat belts or child restraints fitted, you must make children under 14 years old use them.

(Providing the restraint is appropriate for the child's age and weight.)

Of course, **the law** is only reflecting commonsense.

All cars registered after April 1987 (and many older ones) are already equipped with rear seat belts.

And booster cushions and restraints for babies and children of all ages are widely and cheaply available.

So it only takes a little time and effort to make children of all ages safe in the back of your car.

It's a small price to pay to save something beyond value. A child's life.

Children are dying for child restraints.

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Libya-Chad dispute

Agreement brings 17-year frontier war to an end

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

The 17-year dispute between Libya and Chad over their common frontier appeared yesterday to be resolved with the signing in Algiers of an agreement calling for a political rather than a military solution.

The dispute, which has served as a pretext for a Libyan invasion of Chad, concerns the 114,000-square-mile Aouzou Strip, occupied by Libyan troops since 1973, which both Chad and Libya claim.

Yesterday's agreement comes after years of numerous mediation attempts by the presidents of Algeria, Gabon, Nigeria and Mali to bring peace to the area.

It states that the Aouzou Strip dispute will be referred to the International Court at the Hague within one year following an agreement on its ownership by then.

This agreement opens the way for a supervised Libyan troop withdrawal from the strip and an exchange of prisoners of war. It also calls for friendly relations between the two countries and mutual non-interference.

During the last 10 years the two countries have been at war as Libyan troops slowly

occupied the north of Chad while aiding Chadian rebels in a failed attempt overthrow the Chadian regime.

Yesterday's agreement was signed by the respective foreign affairs ministers, Mr Jadhallah Azouzi Al-Talhi, for

Libya, and Mr Achille Mbembe, for Chad. The Chadian Foreign Minister was once an opposition leader, fighting with the help of the Libyans in the north of Chad.

After an official ceasefire between Libya and Chad and the restoring of diplomatic relations between the two

countries last year, he rallied to President Hissene Habre and was made Foreign Minister four months ago.

Libyan troops were driven out of the north of Chad, but not from the Aouzou Strip, in 1987 during Chadian attacks backed by French and American expertise.

Chad holds prisoner about 1,500 Libyan officers and men, mostly captured during the fighting in 1987. President Habre refused to negotiate their return until a settlement was reached on the Aouzou Strip.

Most attempts to set up meetings between Colonel Gaddafi of Libya and President Habre floundered at the last minute when Colonel Gaddafi failed to turn up.

A first breakthrough was achieved in July, however, when the colonel did arrive for a meeting in the Malian capital, Bamako, and shook President Habre by the hand.

It was the first time the two leaders had met since President Habre seized power in Chad in 1982.

But Colonel Gaddafi then refused to sign an agreement on the Aouzou Strip, saying that the withdrawal of Libyan troops should be linked to the

withdrawal of all "non-African" forces from Chad — a reference to the French military contingent of 1,500 men based in southern Chad.

Now he has changed his mind on the eve of today's celebrations in Tripoli, which will be attended by King Hassan of Morocco, of his 20 years in power. There is no mention of "non-African" troops in this agreement.

The French Government welcomed the Libya-Chad agreement yesterday and said that France had always worked towards a resolution.

It will be difficult to determine which country rightfully owns the Aouzou Strip, said to be rich in minerals. France has always tended to see it as belonging to Chad.

The Franco-Italian agreement of 1935 attributed the Aouzou Strip to Italy by placing it in Libya.

After Libyan independence in 1951, France signed a friendship agreement with Tripoli in which the frontiers between Libya and the French colony of Chad — not given independence until 1960 — were based on a 1899 Franco-British agreement which gave the Aouzou Strip to France by placing it in what is now Chad.

At present Hong Kong has no directly elected members of the two councils, and on present British proposals only 10 of the 56 members of the Legislative Council will be directly elected in the 1991 election.

The 5.7 million people of Hong Kong have been divided as to how soon they wanted greater democracy, but a high source said yesterday that there was a "growing consensus" in favour of the proposal made in June.

Only two months remain in which to persuade Peking to soften its attitude, because the consultation period on the second draft of the Basic Law expires at the end of October.

After that Peking will produce a final draft which, after committee discussions, will be enacted by the National People's Congress, the Chinese parliament, next April. The position has been complicated

by the refusal of Peking to send members of the Basic Law Drafting Committee to Hong Kong for discussions, on the ground that they might receive a poor reception.

Instead the Hong Kong members of the committee will have to fight their battles on Chinese territory, where they will feel weaker. The committee's hearings will be the final step between the third draft and enactment of the constitution.

The source also confirmed that Peking was taking an equally hard line over a British suggestion that it should decide not to station Chinese troops in Hong Kong after the handover.

Mr John Major, the Foreign Secretary, raised this idea with Mr Qian Qichen, his Chinese counterpart, at the end of July.

The British have recognized that they are in no position to demand such a concession, which would be an infringement of China's sovereignty. Instead they have argued that it would be in Peking's interest because it would restore confidence in the colony.

Peking has made it clear that it will not even consider it. The British and Hong Kong governments now face a difficult situation, because whatever the Chinese decide will have implications for the remaining eight years of British rule.

The timetable for introducing democracy was last revised in 1988, but after the Peking massacre it was recognized that faster progress would be needed.

The source said there was a strong case for the number of directly elected legislators being increased from 10 to a higher figure in the 1991 election, but no decision had yet been made.

China rebuffs colony rights call

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Editor

The Chinese Government has given a strong indication that it will refuse demands from Hong Kong for substantially greater democracy after 1997, when British sovereignty ends.

Its tough stand threatens to create still greater problems for the British Government, which is about to resume its own talks with Peking on the future of the colony. London is already beset with calls from Hong Kong for a right of abode in Britain and for the repatriation of Vietnamese boat people.

Two groups of Hong Kong representatives recently visited Peking to seek changes in the constitution, known as the Basic Law, which has been proposed by China.

On their return they told the Hong Kong Government that Peking's attitude had hardened. Before the massacre in Tiananmen Square, Peking, on June 3 and 4, the Chinese had seemed receptive to suggestions from the colony, but it now appears to be in no mood for concessions.

Hong Kong sources said yesterday that the representatives, members of the Basic Law Consultative Committee, were told that Peking would not consider a proposal made in June by the colony's legislators. The Executive and Legislative councils, jointly proposed that elections which are due to be held in 2003, all members should be directly elected.

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A Vietnamese boat child suffering from cholera being carried into a hospital in Hong Kong yesterday. Three more cases of cholera were identified yesterday in children among the 4,400 boat people on a remote island detention centre, bringing the confirmed total to six.

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Pentagon steps up war on drug barons as Colombian curfew closes down Medellín

Bush orders hi-tech attack on middlemen of the narcotics trade

From Nicholas Beeston
Washington

The Bush Administration plans to concentrate its effort against the narcotics trade by hitting the industry's middlemen, the hardest with the most modern technology at the Pentagon's disposal.

As Washington prepared to evacuate 50 dependents of US diplomats in Bogotá amid threats against the lives of Americans by the drug barons, it emerged that the emphasis of President Bush's anti-drugs plan next week will lie in attempting to eliminate the pilots, bankers and couriers who provide the key link between the coca plantations in Latin America and the pushers in the US.

Although President Bush has said he is committed to helping Colombia in its crack-down on the Medellín cartel,

the middlemen are seen as more vulnerable targets for the US authorities.

Since July 1 for instance a new military surveillance system called Joint Task Force 4, based in Florida, has set up a giant electronic screen that runs from the Pacific coast to the Atlantic and monitors air, land and sea crossings into the US using spy satellites and

the other main front against the middlemen is in

the banking sector where billions of dollars of drug profits are laundered each year. The US is pressing for a worldwide monitoring system that would log and report each transaction over \$10,000.

Only Britain, France and the United States have so far passed strict anti-laundering legislation and the Washington Administration is particularly concerned that

tighter control should be enforced throughout Europe before the Community scraps currency controls in 1992.

● BOGOTÁ: Nobody was killed in Medellín, Colombia's second biggest city, on Wednesday night. This represented a kind of bitter victory for the besieged mayor who has imposed a curfew in the city

which is the nerve centre of the cocaine racket (Geoffrey Matthews writes).

Locked in a spectacular Andean valley at 5,000 feet, Medellín is known as "the city of eternal spring" with a round-the-year climate more like Indian summer weather. But in recent years rampant violent crime has made it more like the city of eternal death.

Medellín has the world's highest murder rate — there were more than 4,000 in a population of 2.5 million last year. Figures indicate that the number has accelerated this year.

The city's curfew came into effect at 10pm on Wednesday and continued until 6am yesterday. It is to be imposed for an indefinite period, said the Mayor, Señor Juan Gómez Martínez, who has accused the Government in Bogotá of

rejecting his appeal for extra police and leaving the city "defenceless" in the face of the racketeers' continuing threats to unleash total war. Normally at least 10 people would meet violent death in Medellín on a single night.

Colombia's most wanted man — the gunman who shot Senator Luis Carlos Galán at a campaign rally on August 18 — may have been apprehended. A man resembling a picture of the killer, bearing a false passport and a considerable sum of dollars, was arrested in Cartagena on the Caribbean coast on Tuesday, police revealed.

Five other suspects in the assassination conspiracy have already been arrested.

On Wednesday the security service detective who threw himself over the wounded senator in a desperate bid to save him during the shooting,

himself died from gunshot wounds in hospital in Bogotá.

Quite apart from the violence of the contract-killing and things employed by the local drug cartel, the city also has serious social problems caused by the consumption of *bazuco* (the local brand of crack). This has fuelled street warfare between rival gangs of *bazuco* vendors, while the addicts themselves resort to crime — and often murder — to obtain cash for a quick fix.

Only a decade ago, Medellín prided itself on its security, its thriving local tourism, a vibrant nightlife, and fine private hospitals whose expertise particularly in eye surgery and heart transplants attracted patients from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

All that has declined sharply since the rise of the drug racket gave the city its international notoriety.

US increases the pressure on Noriega

From Martin Fletcher
Washington

The Bush Administration yesterday stepped up its battle to remove General Manuel Noriega from power in Panama.

It was due to present firm evidence to the Organization of American States that the general had turned his country into "a haven for drug traffickers". The move came on the eve of today's expiration of

the constitutional mandate of Señor Manuel Solís Palma, the acting President of Panama, a Noriega placeman.

General Noriega, who annulled last May's presidential elections after his candidate was soundly defeated, is widely expected to install a puppet government.

The OAS admitted last week that its team of mediators had failed in a three-month effort to persuade General Noriega to quit, but showed no inclination

to take collective action against him. By demonstrating that General Noriega has been deeply involved in international drug trafficking, the US authorities were hoping to bolster the resolve of individual Latin American states to ostracize the general.

The ambassadors of Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Argentina, Uruguay and Venezuela are reported to have been recalled by their governments for consultations.

boarding of the arms ship in late December last year were revealed in Bogotá yesterday in a book produced by a group of Colombian journalists.

They said they had documentary proof that British mercenaries had been hired by alleged cocaine racketeers.

The revelations coincided with a report by ITN yesterday which showed a group of allegedly British mercenaries rehearsing an assassination attempt on the life of Pablo Escobar, the leader of the biggest and most violent Colombian drug group, the Medellín cartel. The plan was

aborted when one of their two helicopters crashed in bad weather during the run-up to the attack. The pilot was killed.

From Bogotá last night, a woman television journalist confirmed the story and claimed that the pilot who died was a police captain who had been listed as "on vacation".

She said that villagers near where the helicopter crashed at Sonson, near the Escobar ranch, had told her the soldiers spoke in a foreign tongue and that they had been given money to help them get away

without detection. The ITN reporter, Robin White, said that most of the party of 12 involved in the plan — six Scots and six Englishmen — were now back in Britain.

Mr Eveleigh described them from Britain as "a bunch of cowboys".

He said he had dual British and Panamanian nationality and hoped to be able to go back to Panama where he had lived for 16 years. "At the moment I am trying to find gainful employment here," he said. He had no idea how the plot had been blown. "The whole thing went to hell."

Briton admits plot to smuggle arms for rebel group

By Michael Brown

An Englishman last night admitted that he was the mystery "godfather" behind a £1.65 million deal to smuggle arms into Bogotá in support of the country's biggest revolutionary organization.

Mr David Eveleigh, aged 39, claimed that a retired British rear-admiral was also peripherally involved in the plot, which went wrong when police raided a boat called The Copacabana Plot when it put into Kingston, Jamaica.

Police found machine guns, mortars, grenades and ammunition on the boat and

arrested everyone on board, including Mr Eveleigh, the skipper.

Mr Eveleigh was deported to Britain, where he has since been interviewed by customs officials. He is now living in seclusion and asked that his whereabouts be kept secret. "I am wanted by the Colombians, of course," he said.

Mr Eveleigh denied that any of the money used to buy the arms had come from drug sources. Describing himself as a "shipping executive", he said he was approached while working as a maritime adviser at the Panamanian Consulate

in London. He met the rear-admiral in the course of his work, he said, and subsequently, it was put to him that he might be able to provide shipment for arms to FARC, the group known as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia which is generally believed to have the sympathies of Moscow but which Mr Eveleigh considers "leftist but definitely not communist".

"The arms were bought from a British company and came from Portugal. I would rather not say who the firm involved was." Details of the

embarrassment promised houses instead of barracks, shorter hours and free uniforms.

But the discontent spread to other branches of the armed forces, who themselves sent off a spate of anonymous letters to the press. Provoked, Mr Chevenement said on Monday that what last week had appeared as genuine complaints seemed this week to be a right-wing plot and that many of the letters were not from military people at all.

He put the onus on the newspapers to check their authenticity or else military sanctions themselves. A naval captain who had appeared on television to complain about life in the forces was given 30 days' close arrest. He promptly went on hunger

strike, but called it off yesterday after his punishment was reduced to 15 days following a threat from his comrades in Toulon to march through the town to protest against his detention.

Three junior army officers went on television on Tuesday night — this time with faces blocked out and voices disguised — to say their complaints were genuine. "We are a modern technical army but we live as we did in the last century."

Luckily for the minister, the debate has become temporarily side-tracked into whether or not the Gendarmerie should be demilitarized. Socialist tactics may again be in order to defuse a situation that is getting out of hand.

France's defence minister faces mutiny in the ranks

Disgruntled servicemen air their complaints

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

It is hard to be a Socialist and a French Minister of Defence — as M Jean-Pierre Chevènement has been finding out to his cost.

Last week he appeared to be winning the battle over a mutiny in the ranks concerning military pay and working conditions by using the traditional socialist tactics of negotiation and appeasement when dealing with the workers.

This week he lost what small ground he had gained by donning his military cap and barking that the fact that military men were engaged in the one action forbidden them — complaining — was due to a right-wing plot, and the newspapers.

It all started with the Gendarmerie, the branch of the police force that holds military status. Unlike their civilian police colleagues, frustrated gendarmes may neither form trade unions nor complain publicly. So in different areas of France they started writing anonymous letters to the press, drawing attention to their 55-hour week, their life in barracks, their low pay, even the fact that they must pay for their own uniforms.

M Chevènement convened an unprecedented round-table meeting in Paris at which 87 gendarmes, both officers and men, arrived from all over France to put their case to their minister. The rule of total reserve was lifted for the occasion and M Chevènement

promised houses instead of barracks, shorter hours and free uniforms.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Language victory for Moldavians

Moscow (AP) — Members of the Moldavian Supreme Soviet yesterday declared Moldavian (Romanian) to be the official language of the republic and gave it back the Latin alphabet, which was replaced by the Cyrillic alphabet half a century ago. The legislators were grappling with an issue that has pitted the native population against Russian-speakers.

The issue that the Moldavian Parliament was debating for a third day in the republic's capital, Kishinyov, has prompted a strike by the Russian speakers, who fear discrimination. Ethnic Moldavians are trying to shed what they see as decades of infringement of their rights since the area's annexation by Stalin.

Black boycott call

Cape Town — Leaders of the anti-apartheid defiance campaign in South Africa have called a two-day national strike next week to coincide with the general elections, and a month-long economic boycott of white businesses in protest against restrictive labour legislation (Cav in Bell writes). The Government announced it had rounded up a network of African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas which, it said, had been set up specifically to disrupt the elections on September 6. Mr F. W. de Klerk, the acting President, said that nine guerrillas and 10 helpers were arrested last week.

More Argentina talks

Britain and Argentina are likely to hold further diplomatic meetings after a successful exchange of courtesy visits yesterday in the two capitals (Andrew McEwen writes). In London, Señor Santos Goni Moreno, the head of the Argentine interests section at the Brazilian Embassy, spent 30 minutes talking to senior officials at the Foreign Office.

Mayor in 'crack' row

Washington — A convicted drugs dealer has told investigators that he smoked "crack" cocaine with Washington's controversial Mayor, Mr Marion Barry, on several occasions last year (Nicholas Beeston writes). His former aide, Charles Lewis, told FBI agents that he had sold Mayor Barry crack many times.



M Chevènement: Blamed dissent on a right-wing plot.

Syrian naval battery falls in Beirut battle

From Michael Knaipe
Beirut

Guns of the Lebanese Army knocked out a Syrian naval artillery battery at Ras Beirut in the Muslim sector of the city during fierce artillery duels early yesterday, according to senior sources at the presidential palace in the Christian enclave.

The shelling between the Christian eastern and Muslim western sectors of the capital in the last two days reached an intensity not experienced since August 16 when the United Nations Security Council appealed for a ceasefire and a series of international peace moves were initiated.

Six people have been reported killed and 50 wounded in the latest battles.

Low-calibre shelling by Syrian forces on the port of Jounieh, 10 miles north of east Beirut, appeared to provide General Michel Aoun, the leader of the Christian sector, with an excuse to launch a sustained and heavy bombardment of the Syrian naval battery on the coast.

The bombardment showed the Christian leader's anger at the death of nine members of the crew of a coastal oil tanker that was set on fire by Syrian shells on Tuesday while attempting to break through the blockade to the Christian enclave.

The apparent destruction of the Syrian naval battery was followed by repeated Syrian artillery and rocket fire on the



Pro-Syrian Muslim militiamen firing a 120mm shell at the Christian area of Beirut yesterday. Six people were killed and 50 wounded in overnight battles.

already severely shell-damaged presidential palace.

Since the siege of the Christian sector began in March many families have spent every night in their local shelters.

There were about 400 people at one I visited in the

underground car park of a block of flats, mostly families from the neighbourhood — shopkeepers, government clerks, a salesman, a forestry inspector, and their wives and children.

Over the months, they have accumulated the essential

equipment needed for bomb-shelter existence — mattresses on the floor, makeshift electric light, gas lamps and candles. There were two television sets working off car batteries and even a telephone.

Conditions at this shelter were fairly good, but at others,

particularly in poorer districts, sanitary arrangements are less than adequate and the lack of ventilation and drainage is posing health problems.

One underground community included a number of Muslims, a family of Egyptians and even a couple of

Syrians who had lived locally for years and were as opposed to the Syrian Army's presence in Lebanon as everyone else.

Two of the shelter's inhabitants had continued their courtship underground and, in the midst of the bombardments, had married.

EC to give £5m in emergency aid to Lebanon

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

The European Commission announced yesterday a £5.6 million emergency aid package to Lebanon, to provide all communities of the devastated country with food, medicines, tents, water pumps and electrical generators.

The money will be drawn mainly from emergency reserves, and will be handed over to various organizations, including the United Nations and the Red Cross.

The grant comes after a meeting between Commission officials and representatives of relief organizations from the EC's 12 member states on Wednesday. They discussed the report of the EC's delegation to Beirut last week, which was sent at the urging of the political committee and the French presidency.

The mission emphasized the urgent need for outside help to ensure the minimum functioning of essential services such as water and electricity. It also outlined the priorities and huge sums needed to get Lebanon's economy going again and begin the reconstruction of the country.

In addition to the Community spending, two countries, Luxembourg and Italy, have announced additional emergency help amounting to £2.8

million. That will pay for lorries, generators, water reservoirs, excavators, ambulances, and medical and food supplies.

The Community has rejected as premature suggestions that it is ready to offer a more ambitious "Marshall Plan" to rebuild Lebanon.

Officials said such a plan was impossible to implement until there was a competent national government in place with authority to monitor and administer any such scheme. However, EC members will meet again in two weeks' time to assess what else needs to be done.

Lebanon has an association agreement with the EC, which entitles it to possible aid of up to £1 billion over several years. But the agreement has been in abeyance since the beginning of the civil war because the Lebanese Government has been unable to manage the aid programmes.

In mid-August the Commission granted the country emergency aid of £330,000. Foreign ministers of the Twelve said in a statement last week that they were determined to intensify their action in support of Lebanon to relieve the suffering of the population.

Intifada spreads to a quiet village

From Richard Owen, Beit Safafa

If the situation in Beit Safafa is a measure of the true strength of the Arab *intifada*, in existence for nearly 21 months, then the Israeli authorities have more cause for concern than is commonly realized.

This week Israeli Army generals and politicians have said they believe the uprising is faltering on the West Bank, if not in Gaza.

Beit Safafa, however, is not a West Bank village. It is within the Jerusalem city limits, a quiet Arab area which officials believe had reconciled itself to Israeli rule. When you take the road from central Jerusalem to the Jewish hilltop suburb of Gilo you see the village's narrow, wind-

rather than allow it to remain in official hands.

Several Arabs were wounded by army gunfire, and four paramilitary border police were also injured. More than 40 of the youths were arrested and taken away in army lorries. The Army said the villagers had violated an undertaking not to raise Palestinian nationalist flags and had stoned Israeli cars.

But the problem goes deeper. Until 1967, Beit Safafa was a divided village, half in Jordan and half in Israel. After the Six Day War, when Israel occupied the West Bank and annexed East Jerusalem, the fence which ran down the middle of the village was removed and families were reunited. But a distinction always remained between the "Israeli" villagers and the "Jordanian" ones.

The Arabs who had lived in Israel since 1948 were more modern in outlook and less influenced by traditional Arab culture. What worries the authorities is that this week's disturbances, which were apparently started by young Arabs from the "Jordanian" side of the village — to which the dead youth, Khaled Salman, belonged — fully involved the "Israeli" Arabs.

Israeli officials blame Islamic fundamentalists for stirring up a previously tranquil village, although the villagers themselves deny this.

In a bid to restore calm, Mr Teddy Kollek, the liberal Mayor of Jerusalem, paid a condolence call on the Salman family, and met the local village elders to express his sorrow. But he also reminded them of their responsibility for maintaining order.

The disquiet among officials remains. Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, said in Nablus this week that Israel's peace efforts were "losing momentum", and that force would be met by force.



Mr Kollek: Sympathy visit to family of Arab youth.

ing alleyways and the minarets of its two mosques.

But this week disturbances broke out at Beit Safafa, sparked off by the death of a 19-year-old youth. The tragedy occurred when a group of Arab boys threw stones, bottles and iron bars at plainclothes policemen passing through the village in a car.

Within minutes, troops had been called in and the area became the scene of an hour-long confrontation. The clashes between youths and troops were repeated the following day when the villagers staged a funeral procession.

Earlier, they had snatched the boy's body from a hospital

Australian strike hits young Britons

From Robert Cockburn, Sydney

Thousands of young Britons on working holidays in Australia face the loss of their jobs as the country's airline dispute cripples the tourist industry.

The situation is so bad in the magnificent Kakadu National Park, made famous by Paul Hogan's film *Crocodile Dundee*, that native reptiles are said once again to outnumber the tourists. Businesses are going bankrupt.

The week-long shutdown by all domestic airlines has not only stranded holidaymakers in Australian cities. Travellers are trying to leave the tropical far north after losing jobs that were meant to pay their way around Australia.

Julie Campbell, aged 25, an artist from Achillibue in Ross and Cromarty, returned to Darwin yesterday after she was laid off from the Bark Hut Inn in Kakadu.

Speaking from a YWCA hostel, she said: "I've joined the masses trying to make an exodus from Darwin. The Bark Hut Inn relies on passing trade. The tourists just disappeared a week ago."

Darwin has become a centre for redundant workers. Many are British, flocking in like an army of middle-class refugees from the Outback. The prob-

lem is getting transport to areas that might offer work. Miss Campbell is trying to travel 1,240 miles to the resort of Cairns in northern Queensland with one of the heavily booked bus companies.

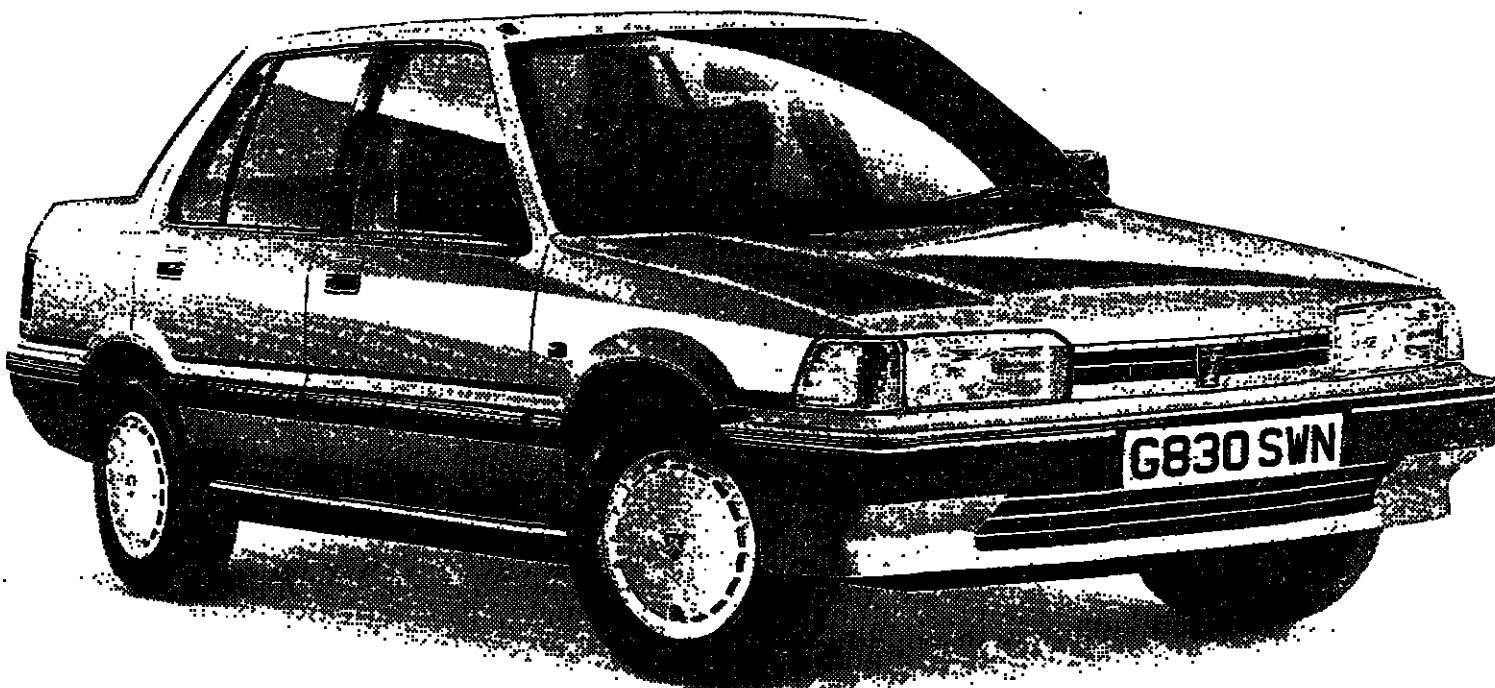
If the airline dispute continues the lack of casual jobs in tourism could cause real financial problems. Queensland and Tasmania are just two areas which have lost more than half their holiday trade. The Hilton Hotel in Sydney has halved its room rates to attract customers.

Australia's tourism industry is losing Aus\$36 million (£17 million) a day, and an international reputation that has taken a decade to build. It could take another decade to win back foreign confidence in an industry which this year became the country's biggest foreign revenue earner.

About 20,000 airport and airline workers face being laid off after last week's resignation of all 1,645 pilots from Australian, Ansett and East-West airlines. The pilots are claiming a 30 per cent pay rise.

The Australian Council of Trade Unions pledged its support yesterday before a crucial meeting today to discuss the future of commercial aviation jobs.

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Fifty years on: Guns of Westerplatte will mark the first shots fired in Second World War

Poles try to exorcise the ghosts of war and cold peace

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The guns that will thunder over Westerplatte today will be using blanks. Fifty years ago the din of artillery was real, not theatre: the first blood of the Second World War was spilled at the Fort of Westerplatte near Gdansk.

Poland, where the war began, was also the country that suffered the most: six million citizens died, a casualty rate of 18 per cent, compared with 0.9 per cent in Britain and 7.4 per cent in Germany.

The country feels itself a victim not only because of the naked, barbaric statistics but also because of the betrayals that marked the beginning and the end of the war. When Britain declared war on September 3, the Poles crowded outside the embassy and shouted: "Niech Zyle Anglia" (Long Live England).

The euphoria was short-lived. By the end of September Poland had been sliced up by the Germans in the west and the Russians in the east.

The question that nags Poland still is how to cope with the two erstwhile aggressors. The relationship with Germany is more straightforward; every corner of Warsaw has its shrine to the scores of Poles shot in reprisals, or at random. Territorial complications every now and again a Bonn politician will talk of Silesia as if it were part of Germany — still sour relations.

For that reason, neither President von Weizsäcker nor Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, are attending this week's commemoration. (Britain's representative, Mr Archie Hamilton, Minister of State at the Defence Ministry, is due in Westerplatte today.) President

Jaruzelski's spokesman also made plain recently that compensation for Poles persecuted by Germans was still an open issue.

But the new political climate broadened these issues, forcing reappraisal. A Solidarity government may, for example, start to demand compensation from East Germany, or even the Soviet Union. Successive Communist governments for the past 40 years have swept such matters under the carpet.

With Moscow opening up, and Solidarity exploiting the new apertures, the other aspect of the war — Soviet aggression — is coming in for sharp examination.

The Polish Communist Party's Politburo — now admittedly a rather marginal body — has fiercely condemned the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. So too has the Parliament, which on Wednesday night declared: "Two neighbouring powers, not for the first time in our history, made a secret pact that offended morality and law and in so doing decided to annihilate the Polish state and cripple the Polish people."

The totalitarian challenge, in its physical and spiritual form, has thus been the tragic fate of Poles for the past 30 years.

Solidarity wants to exorcise all the wartime ghosts. The Russians are tentatively giving ground on the Katyn massacre of 4,500 Polish officers; a joint Polish-Soviet commission of party historians is relentlessly locking the Russians into an admission of guilt. But the Polish historians already want more: they demand the opening of Soviet NKVD archives that would reveal where a further 6,500 Poles, taken from special of-



German troops searching inhabitants of Gdynia for arms after the Wehrmacht had occupied the Polish port outside the free city of Danzig (Gdansk) in 1939.

ficer camps and murdered, are buried. No other country so relentlessly digs up its graves.

Where this leads, nobody knows. Historical reappraisals are a way of questioning the legitimacy of Communist power. But conventional Polish and Western historians have always doubted the Soviet version of events in Katyn and elsewhere; no Pole has been stunned by the

repeated revelations, the excavated evidence. But, with Solidarity poised to take over the Education Ministry in their new Government, it is clear that the history school books will have to be completely rewritten.

New generations of Poles will come to see the Soviet Union not only as a wartime liberator, but also as a perpetrator of crimes; if these

crimes are openly admitted the relationship between the two nations could actually change for the better.

The Solidarity Prime Minister, Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, hinted as much recently. At last, he said, the friendship between Poles and Russians could be people-to-people, rather than party-to-party.

Following that same line of logic, Solidarity's coalition partner, the United Peasants' Party, has called for the Polish War Crimes Commission to extend its brief from Nazi to Soviet crimes.

The war not only poisoned relations between Poles and Russians, but also between Poles and Poles. The party view of the Warsaw uprising — as a suicidal attempt by the non-communist Home Army to establish political control

before the Russians arrived — has always been less than worthy. Why did the Russians not cross the Vistula and prevent the Germans crushing the uprising? These questions, sturred in the official history books, can now at least be asked openly.

That, in turn, should end the slightly uncomfortable position of the Home Army veterans in Polish society. Old

heroes are returning. This week it was Mr Jan Nowak, a fabled wartime courier from London to Warsaw. He was greeted by almost the whole of the Solidarity leadership.

The Parliament has tabled a motion inviting back to Warsaw the head of the Polish First Armoured Division, General Stanislaw Maczek. And there is Solidarity pressure for financial compensation for those anti-communist partisans who were arrested and killed by the Communists after the war.

Slowly, the two versions of history — the popular Solidarity view and the Moscow-influenced Communist view — are being married. This marriage will be celebrated, after a fashion, in Westerplatte when President Jaruzelski and Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity chairman, stand side by side today to mourn the dead.

Relations between Germans and Poles, between Russians and Poles, are still suffering but surely the deepest wartime scars are those of the Polish-Jewish relationship.

Jews yesterday boycotted an occasional Day of Prayer at Auschwitz, accusing the Poles of trying to "Christianise" the death camp by establishing a Carmelite convent on its fringes. Everything that the Polish Church says in defence of the convent seems to fuel Jewish suspicions of Polish anti-Semitism; while Jewish boycotts, and a misguided attempt to storm the convent this summer, have outraged Polish Catholics.

The tragedy of Auschwitz is so huge, so incomprehensible, that nobody has yet been able to grasp how to mourn the victims; even prayers seem to offend.

Spectrum, page 11

Bonn party urges confirmation of post-war border

From John England, Bonn

An opposition demand that the West German Bundestag should vote to confirm Poland's post-war western border is likely to cause some discord during the special holiday session which opens today to mark the 50th anniversary of Hitler's invasion of Poland.

The Social Democratic Party announced yesterday that it planned to table a motion calling on the Bundestag to adopt as its own a message last Monday from President von Weizsäcker to President Jaruzelski of Poland and the Polish people, in which he reaffirmed Bonn's renunciation of any territorial claims to their country.

Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the party's leader, insisted that the Bundestag should adopt his party's motion and take a clear position on the border question.

In what was interpreted as a reference to a government policy statement to be made in the Bundestag by Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, Herr Vogel added: "One cannot give speeches and remain silent on the frontier question."

The conservative-liberal government parties yesterday met Herr Vogel's demand with reservations, including doubts about the propriety of voting on a statement made by a West German President, who is officially above politics. Such a vote has never been taken in the past.

The Social Democrats and the government parties later tried to resolve the issue by agreeing to joint support of both Herr von Weizsäcker's message and Herr Kohl's statement.

Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the Defence Minister, yes-

terday issued a *Tagesbefehl* (Order of the Day) to the armed services to mark the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War, in which he called on them not to repress the past. Terrible things had been done in Germany's name, and they should not be forgotten.

In West Berlin, Herr Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Central Council of the Jews in Germany, said the "Nazis' murder of the Jews had left

Bonn — Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, aged 77, is too ill to open the Leipzig Fair on Sunday, sources in East Berlin said yesterday. (John England writes) Bonn's intelligence service has said he is seriously ill after an unsuccessful operation, but East Germany insists that he is making a normal recovery.

practically nothing of the cultural world of Eastern European Jews.

He added that, 50 years after the outbreak of the war, it was unbelievable that right-wing groups in West Germany were achieving electoral successes by resurrecting some of the old Nazi ideology.

A public opinion poll by the Wickert Institute, of Tübingen, published yesterday, found that only 52 per cent of West German voters know when the war began. Only 60.1 per cent believed that Germany was responsible for starting the war.

● Economic aid: Talks between Bonn and Warsaw on West German economic help for Poland, interrupted by the summer holidays, are to resume in mid-September, Herr Hans Klein, the chief West German Government spokesman said yesterday.

Canoe protest swamped

Oslo (Reuters) — Anti-nuclear protesters in canoes tried to block Nato warships on a visit to Norway from reaching berths yesterday and demanded the removal of a US destroyer they said was carrying nuclear weapons. The 14 demonstrators broke off their protest when a coastguard vessel swamped the canoes with its wash. They handed a letter to officers on the destroyer then hoisted a flag with the peace symbol on the quay.

Deng 'rumour' Docks strike

Peking (Reuters) — China accused foreign journalists of inventing rumours about the health of Mr Deng Xiaoping who has not been seen for 12 weeks and has been reported as being seriously ill.

Minister quits

Lima (Reuters) — The Peruvian Labour Minister, Señor Orestes Rodríguez, has resigned as weeks of strikes by doctors, miners and bus drivers drag on, saying that he intends to stand for the Senate.

Brando's last

Toronto (AP) — The film actor Marlon Brando, aged 65, says he has made his last film, *The Freshman*, adding that, except for the film crew, it had been an unpleasant experience, and was "a stinker".

Tough cure

Papeete, French Polynesia (Reuters) — Terri Williams, a Tahitian spiritual healer was charged with manslaughter after trying to cure a woman by walking on her, beating her and jumping up and down on her stomach.

Bird sanctuary

Port Louis (Reuters) — Mauritius has set aside an area of mudflats near its main port as a sanctuary for thousands of wading birds which migrate there each year from northern Europe and Siberia.

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مكتبة الأصيل

A death that started Britain's war

On Sunday, September 3, 1939 — with the Second World War only minutes old — a young pilot became the first Briton to die on active service. He died in north London and his loss was not reported. Fifty years on, Alan Franks meets one of the eyewitnesses to the event and tells a forgotten story

Fifty years ago this Sunday, only 15 minutes before the end of peace in England, a young pilot officer took off on a training exercise in a new Blenheim bomber from RAF Northolt in Middlesex. Two hours later, after his attempt at a single-engine landing had gone disastrously wrong and his plane crashed on to the rooftops of the north London suburb of Hendon, John Noel Isaac, aged 28, became the first Briton to die on active service in the Second World War.

The story went unreported because of the Government's freshly imposed news blackout, and has remained almost unknown for the intervening half-century. Only a brief entry in the faded leaves of the operations record book of the 600 (County of London) Squadron, Auxiliary Air Force, bears formal testimony to his passing: "Pilot Officer Woodruff arrived from Hendon. He brought sad news. P/O Isaac, whilst practising single-engine approaches and landings, had spun in on Hendon Old Town and had been killed instantly. The aircraft caught fire and burnt three houses; no civilians killed or hurt. This was a blow to all, as Isaac was a very popular officer."

Spare words for a tragic loss of young life which was soon to be upstaged by waves of sudden bereavements as news of greater catastrophes hit home — the torpedoing of the passenger ship the Athenia, the loss of the Courageous and the Royal Oak.

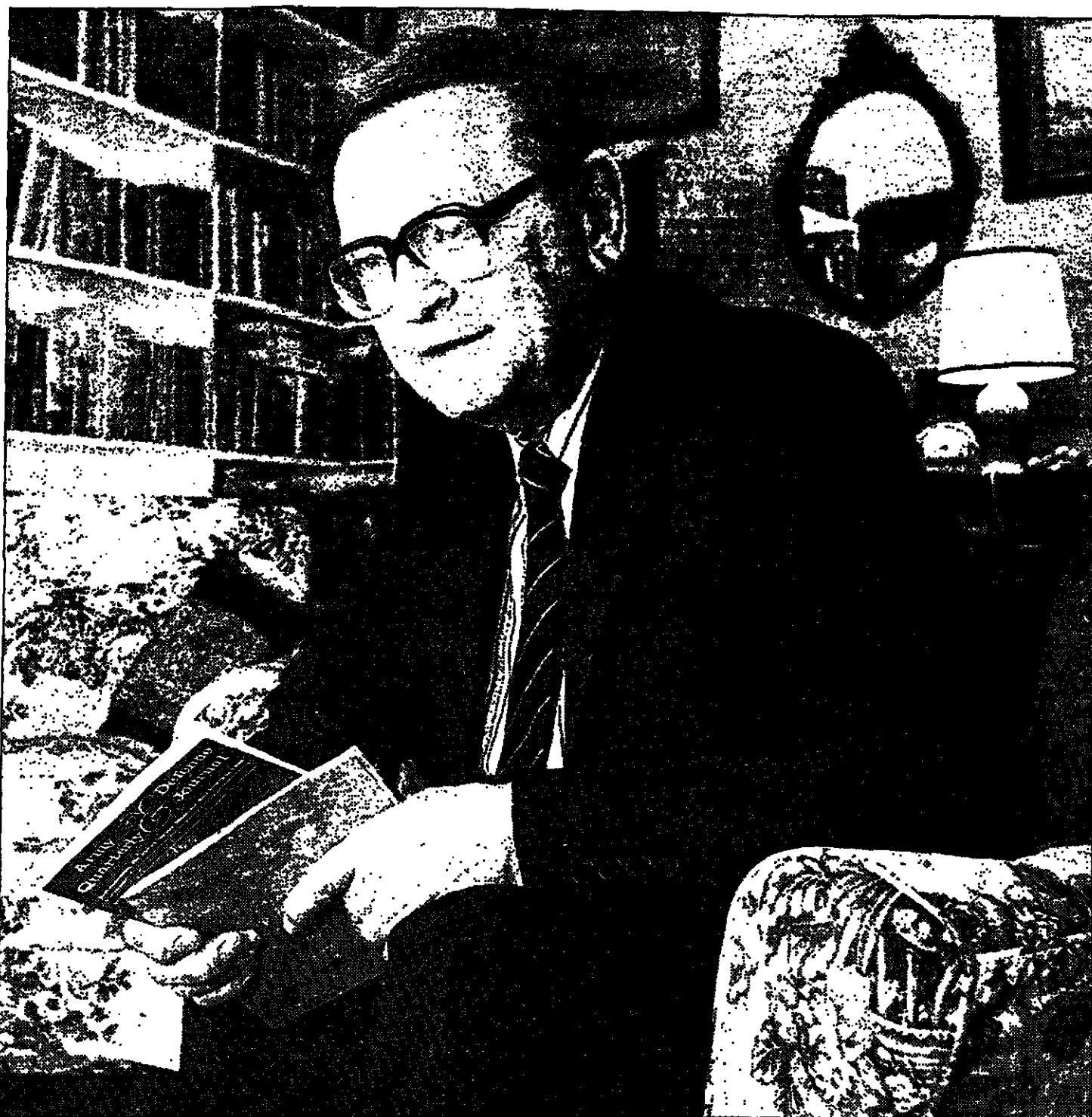
Yet, on that Sunday morning in Hendon, freshly bright in the late summer sunshine, then cast into shadow by Chamberlain's broadcast at 11am, the episode was tinged with grotesque comedy. As a plume of black smoke from the Blenheim climbed into the sky, and gallons of fuel flowed in spate along the gutters, the neighbourhood could be forgiven for thinking that war had broken out in deed as well as word, and that it had started here in north

London. Amazingly, Isaac was the only fatality, even though three houses in Heading Street were destroyed. It took what seemed like an age for the emergency services to drive the half mile from the Hendon Borough Centre, and there were dark mutterings, perhaps attributable to start-of-war nerves, about inefficiency.

A witness on that day was a boy of 15 named Don Bridge, who lived in nearby Sherwood Road. It was barely a mile from Hendon Airport, the birthplace of British military aviation, and the lad was used to the sound of Hawker Furies roaring in 150ft above the garden. But this noise was of a different order. The incident remains much of its immediacy since this was Day One of a diary which Don was to keep for the next nine months. (Eventually the entries became cryptic and encoded in order to throw a nosy young brother off the scent of a blossoming romance.)

At 12.50 Don and his brother heard an immense boom. They dashed out into the road, believing that the bombardment had started. Today Don Bridge is the publisher of *The Army Quarterly and Defence Journal*, and it is the 160-year-old international magazine's research into the first morning of the Second World War which has brought the event into the public domain. This is how he describes it: "The first that Isaac knew about the contents of the PM's broadcast was almost certainly at about 11.40. He received a message from Hendon Aerodrome control, telling him about the air-raid warning below, and ordering him to return. But when the all-clear sounded minutes later, he was told he should continue his training flight."

"News of the war certainly did not unsettle him. Indeed it is more than possible that, like thousands of his generation, he was exhilarated, and glad that the long period of appeasement and the weekend crisis was now over. Perhaps he was thinking of the years ahead. In any event, at 12.45



Memories: "I expect that probably 30,000 or 40,000 people knew about the incident," Don Bridge says, "but everyone had become very disciplined"

he decided to try a single-engine approach on Hendon. He shut down the port engine and turned to the left. It was a crucial error. The Blenheim stalled. Isaac failed to open the port throttle which might have enabled him to regain control, and the aircraft spun in, crashing less than 100 yards away from St Mary's School. Isaac was killed instantly."

Of the unsung victim himself we know little, except that he was a bright young man with a second class honours degree in law from

Jesus College, Oxford. He was born on December 18, 1910, in the village of Dinas Powys, Glamorgan, the only son of Wilfred John and Rosalind May Isaac, and before entering the university on a history scholarship had been a pupil at Magdalen College School. The archives at Jesus, a college with traditionally strong Welsh connections, give his home address at the time of his enrolment in October 1929 as 10 Fields Park Avenue, Newport, and his father's occupation as a fruit importer.

By the time of his death the family had moved again. The records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Maidenhead, Berkshire, give his parents' place of residence as Cardiff. (They also, apparently incorrectly, give his age as 27 and his squadron as RAF 601.) After the initial reference, the operations record books make no further mention of the crash, nor of Isaac's funeral at Golders Green Crematorium in north London. The squadron was disbanded in

August 1945, reformed in May 1946, and then again disbanded, along with all the other auxiliary squadrons, in March 1957. There are no photographs of the squadron at the relevant time at either the Imperial War Museum, the RAF Museum at Hendon, or at the Air Historical Branch of the Ministry of Defence. The routinely-issued accident record card, known as Air Ministry Form 1180, offers only the barest circumstances of the accident. We do know that he was

gazetted with 600 Squadron on January 12, 1939, and that in July he and the squadron travelled to Kent for a fortnight's training at RAF Manston. While his colleagues familiarized themselves with the new Blenheim, practising battle manoeuvres and air-to-ground gunnery, Isaac was getting ready for his first solo flight, which he duly made on July 17 in an Oxford trainer. Nine days later he made his first solo night flight in the same aircraft.

It was undoubtedly difficult for these part-time pilots to make the change-over from the biplane Avro 504 trainers and Hart light bombers, which had much in common with the aircraft of the First World War, to the Blenheim monoplanes and their retractable undercarriages, enclosed cockpits and a top speed of almost 250 mph.

Nevertheless, the investigation into the accident concluded that it was avoidable, and that Isaac should have known not to turn the aircraft towards the dead engine. It would, perhaps, be wrong to suggest that the episode sank without trace; rather, that the news blackout was so thorough, and the progress of the war so momentous, that the waters engulfed it with alarming speed. "What you have to remember," Bridge recalls, "is that at that time people really did take very seriously the warning that careless talk cost lives. I expect that probably 30,000 or 40,000 people knew about the incident, but everyone had become very disciplined in the way in which they talked about such things."

Not even the secretary of the Blenheim Society in Duxford, Cambridge, knows of the young Welshman's fateful flight; nor does the Royal Aircraft Establishment in Farnborough, Hampshire; nor a number of historians and archivists with a daunting weight of combined erudition.

Bridge now wonders whether there was not, after all, something sadly appropriate about our first casualty being the result of a training flight. "I always remember a man called Tisdall who lived opposite us in the street. I don't know why, but the sight of him on that Sunday morning, driving up the road in his Austin 10, has stuck in my memory. Now he had a son, also an only son, and this son was also to be killed in a training accident less than a year later; it was in a Lockheed Hudson in Northern Ireland. An awful lot of young men died like this. The training had to be so terribly rigorous in order to catch up with the years which the locusts had eaten."

Farewell, black forests?

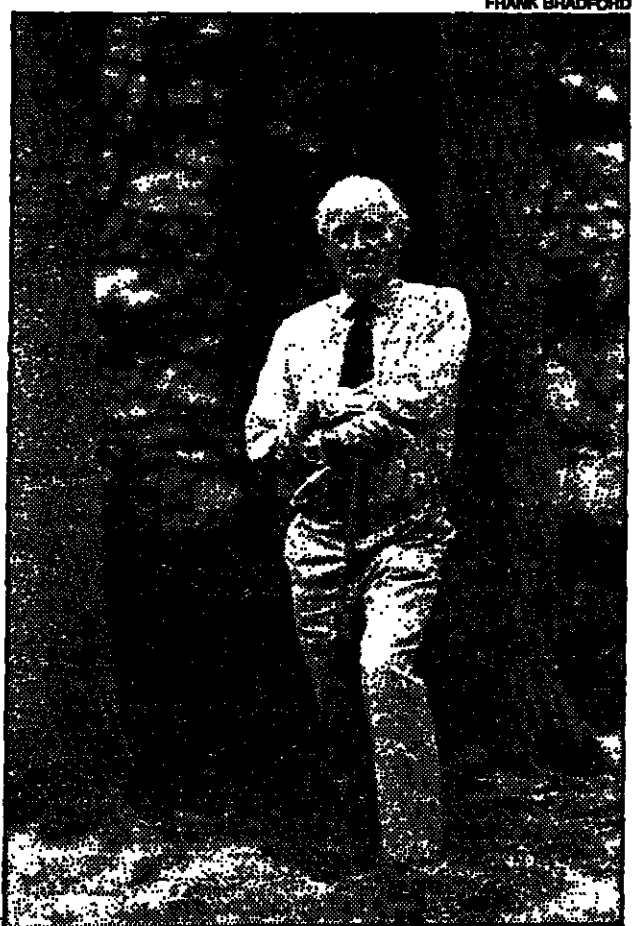
Britain's woodman in chief retires with the promise of a rather less spruce future from the Forestry Commission

While it is always pleasant to have one's retirement significantly commemorated, not many people would welcome the canonisation marking the end of Sir David Montgomery's 10-year chairmanship of the Forestry Commission.

The Scottish landowning baronet — he owns Loch Leven and its island castle, in which Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned — is leaving his post as Britain's woodman in chief to the loudest barrage of criticism the commission has ever received.

It comes from a former employee, Steve Tompkins, an experienced forester now working for the Peak District National Park, whose book *Forestry in Crisis*, published last week, is a sustained attack on recent British forestry practice. It supports growing public concern that our woodlands are not what they should be — that where there should be glades and deer leaping and dappled sunlight, there are dark and impenetrable ranks of conifers spreading over the hills. Not forests at all, mere cellulose factories.

Tompkins describes in detail how some wealthy people have taken advantage of the tax relief on new planting to blanket huge areas of wild landscape with conifers. Although the tax loophole was closed in the 1983 Budget, Tompkins says that the march of the conifer over the Scottish uplands will continue as the Government maintains a planting target of more than 80,000 acres a year.



Out of the wood: Sir David Montgomery defends the commission another role as guardian of Britain's woodlands.

The book is well-researched and its hostile tone has struck a raw nerve in some parts of the commission's headquarters in Edinburgh. Not, though, with the retiring chairman. Sir David is sure of his ground. "It is, if you like, the case for the prosecution but it doesn't fill in the whole picture."

Sir David, aged 58, the ninth baronet, farmed the family estate in Kinross after Elton and the Black Watch, and went into local government; his close friend George Younger, then Secretary of State for Scotland, offered him the Forestry Commission in 1979. He didn't know a lot about trees, but he soon learnt.

He has presided over a period of increasing criticism and change. Under his chairmanship, the management has been restructured and the operations have been mechanized. And, spurred by

requirements of this and other countries are predominantly for soft-wood." But he admits that mistakes were made in previous decades, when forestry, like farming, was intensified and the pursuit of the maximum crop was everything. "The plantations which are blamed for the 'blanket' upland spruce forests are the children of the Fifties and Sixties. They were demanded by the country at that time."

Future forests will be pleasanter places, he says. "We are trying not to repeat those errors, by diversification, by not planting up to river sides or in areas of conservation interest, by leaving a certain amount of open space, by planting broad-leaved trees." Even the plantations of the Fifties and Sixties, he adds, will be improved when they come to their first felling.

It was during his chairmanship that environmental concern became part of official commission policy. In 1985 it was given a legal duty to seek "a reasonable balance between the interests of forestry and those of the environment."

Environmental officers and conservation plans now operate at every level of the organization, there is new emphasis on broad-leaved trees like the oak, and planting grants brought in after the 1988 Budget require private forestry to conform to the commission's new vision of what forests should be.

It is clear, however, that the Government still regards the commission's prime duty as that of a timber-producing enterprise. Sir David's successor, Raymond Johnstone, is a businessman rather than an environmentalist (he is a Glasgow-based investment consultant and honorary president of the Scottish Opera).

Sir David is leaving office convinced that the commission's two roles are not incompatible. "I am very happy to have it looking after the forests of this country, and after the enterprise itself, the timber production. And I have no axe to grind."

Michael McCarthy
Forestry in Crisis — The Battle for the Hills, by Steve Tompkins, is published by Christopher Helm (£12.95).

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TIMES DIARY

ROBIN YOUNG

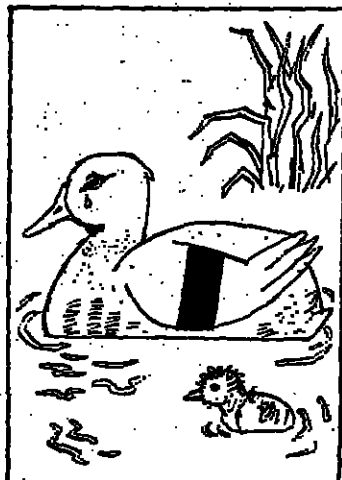
The Labour Party has been knocking heads together in the east London constituency of Bow and Poplar where the sitting MP, Mildred Gordon, has complained of "dirty tricks" by a "conspiracy" to deselect her. Gordon's complaint concerned a leaflet distributed to all local party members headed "Bow and Poplar deserves better", which, without mentioning her, canvassed three rivals for her place. Gordon's supporters retaliated with their own leaflet, headed "Labour needs a fighter" and warning against "carpet-baggers" and "careerists". Both sides have now been ticked off for breaches of Labour's code of conduct in parliamentary elections. Few activists heed the code's provisions: another group, in Hampstead and Highgate, risks reprimand for promoting the choice of the actress Gladys Jackson as candidate through the local press.

Time has run on a little since America asked for the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free. When Congress returns it will be considering a bill, of which Senator Edward Kennedy is one author, which would create 4,800 "special preferences" for dollar-millionaire immigrants willing to invest in a new business and undertake to employ at least ten Americans for two years. The bill has already passed the Senate and its chances in the House are rated good. Once the poor went to America to make fortunes, now the rich are invited to invest them.

Medellin, Colombia's drug capital, is probably the only place in the world where motor-cyclists are likely to be arrested for wearing a crash helmet. So favoured have visored helmets become as a means of securing anonymity for motor-cycling hit-men that they have been banned.

George Bernard Shaw's birthplace, a small yellow-brick terrace house in Synge Street, Dublin, comes up for auction next month. The Shaw Birthplace Museum Trust, which would like to acquire it, says the owners are asking twice what the house is worth, but the vendor, Mrs Aida Giblin, says that, with its Shavian association, the house should be worth twice the price of any other house in the street. Shaw lived there until he was 10.

BARRY FANTONI



The Prime Minister's concern about top executives' pay rises is partly justified, according to *Business magazine*. *Business* set up computer models in Britain and the United States to relate bosses' rewards to their companies' performance, and concludes that while some British captains of industry are grossly overpaid, others are getting much less than they deserve or would be receiving on the other side of the water. Sir Ralph Halpern, Lord Hanson and Tiny Rowland are all paid well over twice their just deserts, *Business* calculates. While Sir Denis Henderson of ICI gets 10 per cent too much, he would nevertheless be in for a 159 per cent pay rise if he were in America.

Typically, the report concludes, UK chief executives earn 50 to 60 per cent less than their US counterparts. Iain Vallance, the chairman of British Telecom, whose rise of £37,000 to £283,000 was described at the annual meeting as "morally unacceptable", would get twice as much if paid what the computer thinks he is worth.

As if to bear out the above, I see hard times in the City have reduced supplies to the role of bicycle thieves. Bike thefts, according to the City of London police, are 50 per cent up on last year, with well over 300 already missing.

I watched an osprey at Minster in Suffolk last weekend. Who knows, this weekend may bring another, for along with other rarities the species has prospered this fine summer. Fifty-two pairs breeding in Scotland raised more than 80 young. In England, Montagu's harrier, one of our rarest birds of prey, scored 18 young from eight nests, the best season for three decades, while in Wales, red kites had their best year this century, a total of 53 pairs successfully producing 47 young. Even the white-tailed eagles in western Scotland fledged a record five chicks.

In this business, you do not look gift horses in the mouth. You rip your shirt off and stick it on them. It is always, of course, something of a mug's punt, but if it does come off you can walk home whistling with 800 words jangling in your pocket. Which is why, last Tuesday, I went for Serendipity in the two o'clock at Camden Town. I had spent a fraught morning ferreting among the somewhat louche ironmongeries of Camden Road in search of a device by which a postal cage could be attached to the back of a front door, and I should almost certainly be glazing your eyes with the account of that fruitless expedition now had my wanderings not eventually fetched me up at a forlorn spot labelled Rochester Square. A tumble-down island bordered by pre-war council flats, it would not have inspired more than the passing tribute of

The British monarchy has stayed in business because of its capacity to move with public opinion, or at any rate only a little behind it. The Church of England, though rather less responsive, has also moved. Hence the relaxed attitude towards the breakdown of the Princess Royal's marriage. Even if, in her case, separation were to lead to divorce, there would be no question of her forfeiting her royal privileges, and no expressions of outrage by the Anglican hierarchy.

In 1936 Edward VIII's desire to marry a divorced woman cost him the throne. The prime minister, Stanley Baldwin, with full support from Dominion prime ministers and the Labour leader, Clement Attlee, advised that he could not make Mrs Simpson queen. He was also told that he could not, as king, marry her without making her queen; that is to say, by having amorganatic marriage. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Cosmo Lang, viewed the whole affair with disgust.

So Edward abdicated, and in due course was married abroad by an Anglican parson acting without authority from his bishop. No member of the Royal Family attended the wedding.

John Grigg charts the change in attitudes since Edward VIII

Royal divorce: the barriers are down at every level

Moreover, since his wife was denied the title of Royal Highness, his marriage was after all treated asmorganatic and so remained until the end of his life, and hers.

In 1936 public opinion was taken for granted by the leaders of church and state. Opinion polling was still in its infancy and not yet a factor of any importance. It is probable, however, that popular views at the time were less censorious than the official view, and that if Edward had made a direct appeal to the people — which, to his great credit, he did not — the scale of support for him might have proved disconcertingly large.

Nearly 20 years later, when Princess Margaret wanted to marry the divorced Group Cap-

tain Peter Townsend, a majority of the public was demonstrably sympathetic (59 per cent, according to Gallup, with only 17 per cent disapproving, and the rest indifferent). The Queen, too, would have liked her sister to do as she wished. But the church and the politicians were still obstructive, even though the Queen had children and Princess Margaret was no longer at all likely to succeed.

Archbishop Geoffrey Fisher opposed the marriage, and so did the cabinet, its view being conveyed to the Queen by the prime minister, Anthony Eden, who was himself divorced.

Princess Margaret could nevertheless have married Townsend, but only by forfeiting her royal status and emoluments. In fact she decided not to do so

because she was "mindful of the church's teaching" and of her "duty to the Commonwealth".

In 1960 she married an undivorced man, Anthony Armstrong-Jones, but in 1978 the marriage was dissolved — with no sacrifice of privileges on her part and no anathemas from Downing Street or Lambeth Palace. She was one of about 145,000 British people divorced that year. The trend towards emulating the American attitude is now far advanced.

Would it, even now, be difficult for the sovereign, or the immediate heir to the throne, to be divorced without stepping down? Much would doubtless depend on the circumstances, but the logical case for treating divorce as an automatic disqualification has been weakened

almost to vanishing point. Granted the present values of British society, a divorced sovereign might be regrettable, but is far from unthinkable, and a divorced Head of the Commonwealth would surely not threaten the survival of that, anyway loose, association.

The ecclesiastical status of the British sovereign as Supreme Governor of the Church of England (which, incidentally, owes its existence to a royal divorce) could still pose some problem, though recent developments in the church have significantly reduced that problem too. The church's concept of Christian marriage is by no means as strict as it was 25 years ago. Divorced persons whose cases are judged deserving may now be remarried in Anglican

churches. This indulgence extends even to priests: not long ago, for instance, the divorced Provost of Southwark was remarried in his own cathedral. Indeed, the church now seems even more tolerant of divorce than Parliament itself. Though it is still against the law for divorced persons to be ordained in the Church of England, the church has recently tried to remove this impediment, only to be defeated by the House of Commons, towards the end of the last session. Such conflicts may well lead, in due course, to the disestablishment, which would, among other things, release the sovereign from any formal connection with the church.

We must, of course, hope that the domestic stability of the Queen and her heir will remain undisturbed, but if either's marriage were to go the way of Prince Amel's it seems unlikely that the Queen would be forced to abdicate, or that the Prince would be forced to renounce his rights of succession.

The American way of life was not misrepresented by the election of a divorced president, Ronald Reagan, and one day an increasingly Americanized Britain may not be misrepresented by a divorced sovereign.

The sin theory discredited

D. Cameron Watt traces the influence of 1918 on political thinking during Hitler's rise, and finds in it lessons for today

The Second World War was a continuation of the First, which had ended with the victors, Britain, France and the United States, convinced of German responsibility for its outbreak. Since each had been drawn in by German attack, in one form or another, this conviction seemed self-evident. The victors therefore wrote a war-guilt clause into the peace treaty, attempted to extradite the Kaiser from his Dutch sanctuary and set up the League of Nations to preserve peace, based on the proposition that any war, anywhere, threatened peace everywhere.

Resort to force, save in self-defence, was labelled aggression, a crime against which all civilized states were supposed, under the direction of the Council of the League, to take suppressive action. The point was made more explicit by the Kellogg-Brand pact of 1928 which outlawed the use of war as an instrument of national policy. The US, as a co-author of this pact, signed and ratified it, as did the Soviet Union.

By the mid-1930s, however, after publication over 15 years of official archives on the events preceding the outbreak of the 1914-18 war, by all the major and some of the minor powers, opinion in general had come to believe that the question of responsibility for the outbreak of the war was a much more complicated story, one of miscalculation, fear, misinformation, and failures in communication, one in which the rigidity of military planning had made war inevitable by excluding all chance of diplomatic manoeuvre. Only thus

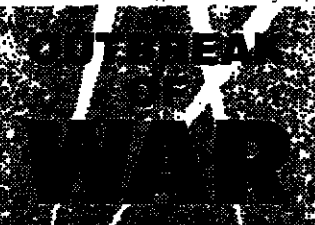
could the initial Austro-Serbian conflict provoked by the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand have escalated into a Russo-German, German-French and Anglo-German war.

In 1938 official British policy was directed towards preventing a similar escalation of a domestic central European conflict between the Czech majority and the Sudeten German minority into a German-Czech, Franco-German, and Anglo-German conflict. The Munich agreement was thus the outcome of an exercise in crisis management.

A year later, after Hitler had forced the remains of the Czech state to sue for the "protection" of his rule and his armies, British opinion at all levels had changed. Hitler was seen as an outlaw, determined on aggression, stoppable only by the prospect of a superior coalition. Deterrence, not crisis management, took pride of place in British policy. War was inherent in the notion of deterrence; and war became inevitable when Stalin chose to be bribed by Hitler rather than to face the risk of fighting him.

With the end of the Second World War the belief that wars were made by criminals (or the criminally insane) was strengthened by the Nuremberg and Tokyo war crimes trials. The charges included, on American insistence, conspiracy to commit aggressive war. From that day to this only the lunatic fringe has questioned the notion that Hitler always planned aggressive war; though many have doubted whether he always planned for what actually happened.

The notion that war itself and the resort to war are essentially



criminal actions, unless resistance to aggression is involved, has taken strong hold.

The real debate on the 1930s centred on the (somewhat questionable) hypothesis that collective action, such as the Covenant of the League envisaged, would have deterred the Axis states had it been applied from the first. Conflict-avoidance or conflict management which involved, of necessity, concessions to the aggressor at the expense of his victim, were morally reprehensible. The appeasement of those at odds with one another acquired an irredeemable stigma; this was to be met at its strongest in the United States, especially after its failure

to mediate a settlement in the Chinese civil war.

Stalin's actions, actual and presumed, from 1946 could be made to fit only too easily into the pattern of Hitlerian aggression. The European reaction was to seek collective security by alliance, first in the Treaty of Brussels (1948) and then by the establishment of Nato in 1949. When North Korean troops crossed into South Korea in 1950, memories of the Italian Abyssinian crisis and the reoccupation of the Rhineland in 1935-36 were freely evoked.

The North Korean forces were opposed by armies marching under the UN banner. A Commonwealth division, Greek and Turkish troops, even an Indian ambulance unit, formed part of them. The US and its European allies embarked on major rearmament programme. Mem-

ories of the 1930s were similarly evoked by Eden against Nasser in 1956 (when they failed to move President Eisenhower), and by American spokesmen against North Vietnam (failing, equally, to evoke approval in Britain).

From the early 1960s onwards, fears of the onset of a new world war appear to have returned in the main to models of 1914. Leaving aside for the moment theories that a nuclear exchange might be brought about by technical malfunction, or a conspiracy of mad scientists and mad military, the majority of suppositions as to how a new world war might arise, centre around three possibilities: escalation of a conflict engineered by client states; miscalculated manoeuvres leading to a confrontation from which neither side dare withdraw; or war beginning with a pre-emptive strike by one side for fear of the other. All are

derived from different versions of the events of July 1914.

President Gorbachev's much proclaimed *perestroika* has not only virtually destroyed Western belief in the inherent aggressiveness of the Soviet system; it bids fair, in turn, to destroy Soviet belief in the inherent aggressiveness of the Western capitalist system. As such, it only imports into the politics of propaganda assumptions which have been part of Western arms control proposals for two decades: verification, notification of manoeuvres, inspection, confidence-building measures, etc.

These were the outcome of the American development of bargaining, arms control and conflict resolution theories of the Kennedy and pre-Kennedy era. They underline the dimensions of the chasm which has divided official thinking in private from the propaganda rhetoric of both East and West and their domestic opponents, much of it drawn from the historical mythology of the 1930s.

The worst legacy of 1939 has been the establishment of a sin theory of international relations. The original sinners were Hitler and/or Neville Chamberlain. Then came Stalin and Western capitalism; more recently the sinners were Ronald "Ray-gun" caricatures of the American military based on memories of General Patton and caricatures of mad theorists (Dr Strangelove) modelled on Herman Kahn or Henry Kissinger.

Perhaps the proper and complete understanding of the events of 1914 and 1939 now made possible by the increasing contacts between Soviet and Western historians will put an end to the distortion of historical understanding in the service of contemporary political ideology. Perhaps. One can only keep on trying.

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The author is Stevenson Professor of History at the London School of Economics. His book, *How War Came*, is published next month by Heinemann.

When will Christians stop being so craven?

Robert Kilroy-Silk calls for a Western stand against Muslim fanaticism

For weeks I have been wondering why the world's Christians and their leaders have not been very conspicuous in defence of their co-religionists under threat of annihilation by the Syrian forces and their rag-bag of Muslim allies in Lebanon. Now I know.

Apparently there is an unwritten rule that Muslims may provide aid and succour to one another but mutual support is forbidden to the rest of us, especially to those in conflict with Muslims.

Muslims in Beirut receive money and arms from all over the world to fight the Christians. In pursuit of what they call a holy war they indiscriminately kill and maim innocent men, women and children — not only in Lebanon but, through acts of terrorism, of all races, colours and creeds in every part of the globe. Aircraft are bombed; hostages imprisoned and killed; a novelist has to go into hiding because his life is threatened.

Judging by the Muslim reaction, one might imagine the

Pope to be guilty of equally heinous crimes when all he did, belatedly but quite naturally, was to single out the Lebanese Christians as being particularly deserving of his sympathy and prayers, and to hint that he might visit their country.

The Iranian newspapers were, of course, the most vitriolic and mischievous. *Jumhuri Islami* said that the visit to Lebanon would be tantamount to the Pope endorsing "the crimes of the Falangist and Maronite" Christians and embarking on an anti-Muslim crusade.

The effrontery is breathtaking, or would be were we not, unfortunately, so familiar with it by now. Who does these people think they are? They taunt us with the charges that Western civilization is decadent and dying, deride its values, and try to eradicate its principles and stem its influence. They impose a strict religious orthodoxy on their own believers and demand

a rigid adherence to their customs by foreign visitors. They tear up international agreements, disdain normal standards of civilized behaviour, threaten to eliminate the Jews and the Christians in Beirut, support murder and terrorism just about everywhere, and then denounce the leader of the world's largest Christian community as a modern-day crusader. Would that he were!

It has been witnessed in Britain, where the militant mullahs are constantly being mollified, conciliated, charmed, appeased and generally sucked up to. They have only to make a demand for it to be conceded. We turn a convenient legal and moral blind eye to their treatment of women, to ritual slaughter, to the burning of books, the intimidation of publishers and booksellers and to incitement to murder.

The Pope's expression of sympathy for the Lebanese Christians had hardly left his lips before his spokesman in Beirut, the Lebanese Maronite Patriarch, Nazrullah Sfeir, was scurrying to apologize for it, to insist that His Holiness did not

mean what he said. He had been misinterpreted, misunderstood. It is an unedifying spectacle. But then there are dozens of precedents for it. The same kind of cringing, wringing of hands, and abasement on the part of Western leaders in front of the aggressive posture of Muslim extremists has been on display in almost every country many times.

It has been witnessed in Britain, where the militant mullahs are constantly being mollified, conciliated, charmed, appeased and generally sucked up to. They have only to make a demand for it to be conceded. We turn a convenient legal and moral blind eye to their treatment of women, to ritual slaughter, to the burning of books, the intimidation of publishers and booksellers and to incitement to murder.

be characterized as being intolerant, anxious that we should not be seen to be ignorant of ethnic customs and values, and most of all deeply afraid of being labelled as racist. The Muslims know this and play on these anxieties and weaknesses.

They also play on our well-justified fear of retribution if we thwart their ambitions. The fact that they are ready and able to invoke political and economic sanctions, particularly over oil supplies, to set off another bomb, to hijack a further plane, kidnap more hostages, does it has to be admitted, sometimes make it difficult to resist their demands.

But of one thing we should at least be clear. Western appeasement of their demands, in Iran, in Lebanon or here in Britain is not viewed by the Muslims as an act of great statesmanship. They do not praise the wisdom, strength and magnanimity of the West. They laugh at our credu-

lity, weakness and stupidity. They take advantage of us.

We send out Terry Waite as an earnest emissary of our goodwill and good faith and they laughingly and contemptuously kidnap him.

At some stage the West must realize that it has to stand up for its beliefs and reassert its traditional values.

The Pope, the Lebanese patriarch says, "does not take sides". Well, it's about time that he did. It was not taking sides that enabled the Nazis to prosper in Germany, McCarthy to succeed in the United States and the Iranian zealots to become dominant in the Middle East. He should know which side he is on, as clearly as the Muslims do.

The Pope has a great opportunity to do what the cardinals elected him to do: to reaffirm and defend Christian faith and values. He should couple it with a further condemnation of murder, terrorism and hostage-taking. And he should say it in a Christian church — and in Beirut.

Brush with the old-dear stalkers



ALAN COREN

an environmental sigh, if I had not caught a glimpse of a foundation stone on the mossy wall of a squat redbrick building in the middle.

I cannot resist foundation stones. Not only do they instantly call up poignant tableaux of dead masons in top hats; they often baffle the imagination at the star they managed to pull to do the trowelling. Rochester Square did not disappoint. When I peered through the rusty railings, I read: *This foundation stone laid by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*.

What could have coaxed, in 1926, the great man thither? A gumshoe seminary, perhaps, a violin factory, a cabmen's hostel?

If I seemed to hear his ghost reiterate that it was a capital mistake to theorize before one had data, I might not have been mistaken: for, five yards further on, I came to a second inscription, this time beside the door: *Rochester Square Spiritual Temple*. And I suddenly recalled that Sir Arthur had indeed been much preoccupied with that business from which travellers were regularly nipping back.

Beneath the inscription hung a notice board. *Clairvoyance Every Tuesday 2pm*, it said. *Please Use Rear Entrance*. It was 1.55. I walked round the back, and through the open door into a little room curiously hung with old

frocks. Here, some 20 elderly ladies were rummaging through piles of secondhand shoes. The rest of the room contained five rows of old beatwood chairs, unoccupied.

I sat down. After a moment, one of the ladies sat down beside me.

"God bless you," she said. She held up a pair of sandals. "I'm normally a 5," she said, "not a 6, but if you put a bit of felt in you'd never know!"

They all sat down after that, and another lady came round with a jar and we all put 40p in it, and the lady next to me said she hadn't seen me there before and was it because someone close had just entered the spirit plane, and I said not exactly, and she said that was all the better, if you tried to get in contact straight away you could be terribly disappointed,

those transferring to the spirit plane had to have time to settle down, it was like moving to a new neighbourhood.

Mrs Denny, the medium, came in spot on two o'clock, a trim and cheerful lady in a brown twin-set, and was immediately asked whether she had found her cat. She said yes, it had come back last Friday, but in the afternoon her other cat had been run over. At this, there was a general exhalation of sympathy, but Mrs Denny didn't seem too downcast, doubtless because cats translate to the spirit plane, too, and instead launched briskly into a flurry of messages, going along the rows in strict succession.

A number of husbands came through, occasionally identified by name, and in one case by the size of his head (small), and then Mrs Denny looked at me. There was a long pause. I felt rather odd. I have a lot of dead friends and relatives, and I couldn't help suspending enough disbelief to imagine them pushing and shoving to get to that point on the spirit plane where they could bend Mrs Denny's ear. But nobody came. All that Mrs Denny said was: "Don't worry about your financial problems, your spirit friends tell me they will help."

A number of heads turned to gaze at me, sympathetically. I wondered if I looked like a man whose money had just died.

Not that I have any financial problems, as far as I know. What I don't know, of course, is how far that is.



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DAYLIGHT UPON MAGIC

Bagshot, writing in the reign of Victoria, said that when there was a select committee on the Queen, the charm of royalty would be gone. "Its mystery is its life. We must not let in daylight upon magic". Tell that to the editor of *Paris Match*. Developments in this century have meant that the press and the rest of the media have come to constitute a select committee that is in more or less permanent session. Who would want to be a "royal"?

The Princess Royal's separation from Captain Mark Phillips is the third occasion in the present reign when questions relating to marriage in the Queen's immediate family have attracted worldwide attention. Nothing illustrates more poignantly the changes that have taken place in social attitudes and conventions in those years than the striking difference in public response to those three events.

The last occasion was the divorce of Princess Margaret. That was only 11 years ago, and our judgement at the time was that it was not an event that was in any way central to the position of the monarchy.

A quarter of a century earlier, the tone had been rather different. "In the mounting tumult over the assumed wish of the Queen's sister to marry a gallant officer..." We were not alone, on that occasion, in pronouncing at length, and from a great height. Sermons were preached, and Dr Gilbert Murray wrote a letter to the editor. The Press Council issued a remonstrance. At the other end of the world, *The Sydney Morning Herald* told its readers that if a marriage took place, the couple should retire "into decent dignified obscurity".

There seems to be no very complicated reason for the present breakdown. Like many another modern marriage, it has simply not worked out. That does not bring us any closer to being a republic, and the Government will not fall. There will be widespread sympathy for the Princess and her husband, tinged with the sadness that always attends the fading of

dreams. We are very possessive about our Royal Family, and we were all, in a sense, guests at that fairy-tale wedding 15 years ago.

The Queen's daughter has never been a fairy-tale princess, however, and the monarchy is the stronger for it. There was a time when she did not float on the same high flood of public affection as her mother and grandmother.

She has been very much her father's daughter. It was the Duke himself who coined the word "dontopedology" to describe his faculty for opening his mouth and putting his foot in it, and something of this happy gift has passed to his daughter. Uncluttered by too much formal education, she has always had a brisk and demotic way with words, especially with journalists; the phrase she used to the "ratpack" at the 1982 Badminton Horse Trials has still to find its way into the chaste pages of the Oxford English Dictionary.

In recent years, she has grown enormously in public affection and esteem. She has won golden opinions not only for what she has achieved, but for the way in which she has gone about it.

It would be entirely inappropriate for comment on yesterday's statement to take on the tone of an obituary. We are contemplating the end of a marriage, not the term of a life of distinguished public service. That will continue, with the attractive blend of competence and dedication that the Princess Royal has made her hallmark.

The direction which her private life will now take is strictly her business. She and her husband will be principally exercised about the impact of their separation on their two young children, and in such concerns they will have the sympathetic interest of the nation. Beyond that, the words that we wrote about her aunt half a lifetime ago serve equally well today: "It would become an impertinence for anyone to criticize the way she then chooses to order her personal affairs".

TRADE'S GLASS HOUSES

Coincidence has provided Japan's new Prime Minister, Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, with an ally in his five-day bridge-building visit to the United States. Only days before the start of critical US-Japanese talks on the "structural impediments" to bilateral trading and economic relations, Mr. Arthur Dunkel, Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, yesterday prefaced the GATT's annual report with implicit criticism of US trade policy.

Mr. Dunkel points out that anxieties over the health of the international trading system should not obscure the fact that world trade grew last year by a healthy 8% per cent. But he criticizes "an apparent drift towards the attempted resolution of trade difficulties through unilateral and discriminatory measures". His target, unnamed in accordance with GATT protocol, is clearly the 1988 US Trade Act and, in particular, its Section 301 which requires the US Administration to identify countries it considers unfair trading partners and to negotiate away trade barriers under the threat of unilateral sanctions.

In May, the US singled out Japan, Brazil and India. Monday's talks in Tokyo represent the first attempt to fulfil the Administration's duties under the Act. Japan has, after initial expressions of anger, diplomatically agreed to welcome the opportunity to resolve the dangerous bilateral tensions between the world's two largest economies — tensions which could imperil the all-important Uruguay Round.

Mr. Kaifu, who already has his work cut out to convince the US Administration that the scandal-ridden Japanese Government is at least on an even keel, has to contend with an American public opinion which now identifies Japan as the principal threat to US interests. Mr. Dunkel's comments are a timely reminder that, however justified many of the complaints against Japan are, the weapons the US has chosen to combat them contravene its obligations under the GATT not to discriminate

between trading partners. There are signs that Mr. Dunkel may be pushing on a door which is already opening.

The Bush Administration, after initial hesitation and talk of using its "crowbar" to prise open markets for US exporters, is showing considerable sensitivity to the universal criticisms the 1988 Trade Act has evoked. Its chief international trade negotiators, Mrs. Carla Hills and Mr. Rufus Yerxa, have recently multiplied their assertions that the US is out to strengthen the GATT, not to break it.

Both have promised to employ US law in support of GATT objectives, to iron out bilateral disputes with Japan (and the European Community) in ways "entirely consistent" with its rules, and to bring complaints to the multilateral body for settlement. The US has agreed to be the first country to submit its overall trade policies for inspection by the GATT under new powers accorded to the organization this spring.

Such positive indications do not, however, obscure the fundamental contradictions between the declared US commitment to an open, multilateral trading system and the unilateral powers assumed under the 1988 Act. The tide of popular opinion in the US makes it unrealistic to expect that legislation to be repealed. But Mr. Dunkel was right to emphasize that if unilateral sanctions were actually imposed, as they have not yet been, such action could derail the Uruguay Round.

The omens for the Round, appalling only six months ago, have improved dramatically. But as Mr. Dunkel points out, this is no ordinary trade negotiation. Its inclusion of areas — such as agriculture and services — never before subjected to international rules will, as he says, "re-order the basis for economic relationships between countries". In this endeavour, the economic weight of the US and Japan requires them to work shoulder to shoulder. Monday's negotiations have, therefore, global significance. The GATT report is a timely reminder of how much is at stake.

UNHAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Many overseas dignitaries will take part today in Colonel Gaddafi's 20th anniversary celebrations. Few, however, will share the jubilation of their host.

In the two decades since he seized power from King Idris, the Libyan revolutionary leader has won for himself an unenviable reputation. His unrestrained hostility to "imperialism" and insatiable opposition to Israel have made him the friend of terrorists and fanatics.

At home he had run the economy into trouble. Falling revenue from the country's oil wells, some of which could run dry within the next 10 years, has led to import cuts and empty shelves. Despite his professed belief in people's power, open government as such does not exist and any dissent is summarily dealt with.

Abroad he has aspired to Arab unity. But few of his eight attempts at union with one or more states has lasted more than a couple of months. His war against Chad over the disputed Aouzou region was disastrous — in spite of yesterday's outline agreement on a settlement.

Yet Colonel Muammar Gaddafi has survived. Not only that, but his power base remains firm — or so it would seem to most outside observers. His eccentric, high profile, posturing style of government seems to have proved acceptable to his people. He has, in his way, brought unity to his country.

How long he can continue to do so is debatable. He has had, by his standards, a comparatively good year. The sudden and surprising agreement signed with Chad follows last year's formation of the Maghrib Arab Union (with Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia). At the Arab summit earlier this year at Casablanca he even patched up his quarrel with President Mubarak.

Last year he relaxed his restraints on the economy. The shelves in Tripoli's shops are

filling up again. The coats of paint which have recently been applied to the peeling brown walls of Libya's capital may only disguise the surface of reality. But on the surface, at least, things are looking up.

Heads of state from neighbouring countries in North Africa are attending the Colonel's anniversary party. Even President Mubarak has dispatched a deputy prime minister to represent him — though he himself has wisely kept away. A number of Britain's European partners have sent envoys of varying levels of seniority.

Few can genuinely wish the Colonel well. Some would rather have Gaddafi as a friend than an enemy, but most remain deeply suspicious of his motives and Arab states find his antics an embarrassment.

The United States trade embargo which was renewed only recently by Washington, is said to be doing serious damage to the oil industry by causing a growing shortage of spare parts. Colonel Gaddafi has opened negotiations with the United States over the possible return to Libya of US oil companies. But the scare at the end of last year over what is still thought to be a chemical weapons plant at Rabta only reinforced Western doubts over his true purposes.

He would also like to repair his relationship with Britain, severed after the siege of St. James's Square five years ago. But his record of helping dangerous Arab terrorists is matched only by his support for the IRA. Most if not all of the Semtex explosive which has found its way into the Provisionals' arsenal has travelled to Ireland from Libya.

His gains are therefore arguably our loss. A further decade of this maverick personality can hardly instil much enthusiasm. The cries of "happy anniversary" will not resound far beyond his own borders.

Military lessons for Lebanon

From Major-General H. M. Tilton

Sir, No sensible person could quarrel with Sir Graham Hill's aspirations (August 21) for a restored and peaceful Lebanon. It would be wrong to leave his proposals to stand alone, however, without pointing out their military implications.

First, the United Nations have no "peace-keeping forces" beyond those put together from contributing member states to meet specific tasks set either by the General Assembly or Security Council. Using any such force for what Sir Graham terms "policing actions" would call for at least four prerequisites:

Agreement by all the warring parties to a ceasefire and to cease any harassment of each other's civilian population. Agreement by the parties to retain their respective forces within defined territorial limits. Agreement by the parties either to surrender their arms or to reduce them to minimal levels for their immediate protection.

Acceptance by all the parties of a United Nations force to police the observance of these undertakings.

At present, there are no indications of any of these conditions in Lebanon.

Second, Sir Graham suggests that the UN force already in Lebanon (Unifil) should be strengthened so as to disarm all other armed forces or to drive them out into neighbouring countries. The Lebanese factions are not lightly-armed guerrillas, as may be suggested by television shots of ruffians blazing away with their AK-47s into the night. They are well-organised, skilfully-led troops, armed with heavy weapons — 0.5 in. calibre machine guns, anti-tank rocket launchers, tracked armoured fighting vehicles, and 155 mm. calibre "medium" artillery. The latter can throw shells, each capable of demolishing a house, to a distance of 25 kilometres.

Disarming by force, as Sir Graham implies, or dislodgement of these elements is not within the capability of the contingents of the small or Third World nations, who have bravely and consistently made up most of the UN forces for 40 years. Nor is the Lebanese situation susceptible to a *coup de main* operation, by special forces. The factions are too dispersed and, the foreigners aside, are fighting round the villages which have been theirs for generations.

If only to provide a scale, it is my view that it would require a force of not less than four divisions of professional soldiers (48,000 men) to impose control of Lebanon. They would need logistic troops, tactical airlift, and two ports of entry, each with a secure base and civilian workforce. Only four permanent members of the Security Council (I exclude China) could provide divisions of the requisite quality, experience, and discipline.

I do not advocate such a course. The loss of life and damage to an already ravaged country would be horrific.

Yours faithfully,
H. M. TILTON,
Box 12, Bishop's Waltham,
Southampton, Hampshire,
August 23.

Trade imbalance

From Sir Monty Finniston, FRS, FEng

Sir, I am in accord with the view expressed by interested and biased parties in Government that one cannot draw quantitative conclusions from one month's trade figures as to what the next month's deficit figure or thereafter might be. There can be no doubt, however, that the country has had a continuing balance-of-payments deficit for the last three years — at one, two, or more billion pounds.

Incidentally, whatever this figure, did not the Government anticipate the deficit at £14.5 billion for the year? Why the surprise if this turns out in the expected direction?

Yours faithfully,
MONTY FINNISTON,
6 Manchester Square, W1,
August 24.

Trial by jury

From Dr B. M. Crow, JP
Sir, Does Mr Rusbridger (August 25) think three trained magistrates are any less competent than a random jury?

The lower courts are not biased in favour of the police or anyone else. Anybody who walks out of a shop without paying is a suspect thief, but unless the *motus* to steal is proved "beyond reasonable doubt" the charge is dismissed. Yours faithfully,
BARBARA M. CROW,
Yarner, Netherthorpe,
Newton Abbot, Devon.

My goodness!

From his Honour Judge Wild
Sir, In his article on robes for advocates ("Legal Brief", August 15) Edward Odum suggests that the average person pictures a barrister in wig and gown as a culture.

I prefer the analogy used in a case which I tried. One of the many defence counsel likened them, in "our black gowns and white wigs" to "15 pints of Guinness — presided over by a watchful barman". Yours watchfully,
DAVID WILD,
The Saville Club,
69 Brook Street, W1,
August 19.

Pertinent questions on Namibia

From Mrs Elizabeth Endycott

Sir, Mr Paul Boateng and others (August 23) express concern at the possible disfranchisement of numbers of voters in the north of Namibia, due to deficiencies in the registration procedures. These people might like to learn of an even greater number of Namibians who have not yet been able to register, and to add their plight to their concern.

I, too, have just visited Namibia and found that there is a much greater worry about the thousands of people who left the territory for exile during the last 15 years and who have not yet been repatriated.

During the last 10 years Swapo, who were, in 1974, given the status of "sole legitimate representatives of the Namibian people" by the UN, have claimed to have been looking after some 80,000 refugees in camps in Zambia and Angola and they have been receiving funds from the UN and other aid-donating organisations accordingly. Earlier this year the Angolan Government gave the number as 69,000; later the UN announced that 41,000 had registered for repatriation, of whom 35,000 had been returned by last week.

Swapo's treatment of anyone regarded as having dissident views has been as brutal as that under any repressive regime anywhere in the world. Hundreds of exiles have died under torture; hundreds more have died in underground cells — pits the size of small rooms, covered with corrugated iron and where up to 36 prisoners lived in darkness without ventilation, stifling during the day, often bitterly cold during the night, often ankle-deep in water during the rainy season. It is believed that hundreds more are still being held in camps run by Swapo "security

services" in Angola and in normal prisons provided by "friendly" African countries.

These people also have a right to vote, and in fact there is a growing call from some of the leaders of other political parties for the elections to be postponed until every missing Namibian has been accounted for. Last week the number known to be missing was 543, but more are being added every day as anxious relatives inquire at the transit camps where returnees are held (these camps are being run by the Church Council of Namibia, which is so blatantly pro-Swapo that it is popularly known as "the religious arm of Swapo") in search of family members who fled into exile and have not been heard of since.

Mrs Kinnock and Baroness Blackstone were offered the opportunity at the end of July of meeting some of the returnees who had been so hideously tortured; in view of the interest of both in women's and children's affairs it was thought that they would have jumped at the chance to learn at first hand how these people had been treated. ("Don't ask me what happened to the women," one of the men said to me. "I cannot bring myself to say the words.") Sadly, the two British visitors refused the offer.

It would be helpful if your correspondents could widen their concern and use their considerable influence to ensure that all eligible Namibians will be assured of the chance to vote in their country's first genuine multi-party elections.

Yours sincerely,
ELIZABETH ENDYCOTT,
4 Southwoodhall,
Highgate, N6,
August 24.

Nazi-Soviet pact

From Professor Emeritus Robin Kemball

Sir, Sir Peter Wilkinson (August 24) does well to remind us of our double debt of honour to Poland. In this context, it is disturbing to see the old red herring being revived (not only in the USSR but by Western authorities — who should know better) that in 1939 Britain and France virtually "forced" Stalin into his pact with Hitler by the leisurely nature of their own negotiations.

The truth is that, however they negotiated (and their suspicions were not exactly unfounded), the decisive obstacle to any Allied-Soviet pact was the Soviet demand to be allowed to station troops on Polish soil — a demand adamantly rejected by the Poles, who were criticised for being "awkward", but who — as later events proved only too well — understood Soviet designs far better than many in the West; they had already once driven the Red Army from the gates of Warsaw when Lenin launched it against them in 1920.

A second myth that needs exploding is the recent claim by Alexander Jakovlev (*Pravda*, August 18), chairman of the special committee set up to investigate the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, that it represented "a deviation from Lenin's norms for Soviet foreign policy and Lenin's rejection of secret diplomacy". Early Soviet history brims with instances of forcible annexation conducted under Lenin, whose foreign policy was no whit less cynical, opportunistic, or amoral than that of Stalin.

Water metering

From Mr V. C. Burke

Sir, F. P. Taylor (August 24) is, on the evidence of the address given, a customer of the same water authority as myself and may be pleased to learn that the supply and fitting of a water meter should cost a lot less than the £150 quoted.

My meter cost nothing. It was fitted about five weeks ago. A survey fee of £15 to the water board produced, in due course, an inspector, who suggested the meter's siting and gave me a chit authorising its collection from "Main Stores" (shades of the Quartermaster of fond memory).

The operation was accomplished by a retired plumber friend of a friend, who provided parts to the value of £15 and charged me £10 for the labour. Grand total of £40, plus petrol to and from the stores, say 24 miles.

The job was given full marks by the same inspector for no extra fee.

Yours faithfully,
V. C. BURKE,
189 Longridge,
Knutsford, Cheshire,
August 25.

Religious terms

From Mr Uthman Barry

Sir, Yehudi Menuhin is of course entitled to use his fame as a musician to put across his views on religion and philosophy ("Prayer for an orphaned race", August 22). But the term "Mohammedan" is one we Muslims thought we'd seen the last of. It comes from the days of the Crusades when Christians thought we worshipped Mohammed as they worshipped Jesus Christ.

Not so. We are called Muslims in the Quran and have tried to explain why we are not "Mohammedans" for many years now.

Yours etc.,
UTHMAN BARRY,
Islamic Propagation Centre,
481 Coventry Road,
Small Heath,
Birmingham, West Midlands,
August 22.

Thoughts about a safer carnival

From Mrs Jackie Pruskin

Sir, White, female, middle-class, middle-aged, I was dancing home from the Notting Hill Carnival on Monday night to the rhythm of "Hot, Hot, Hot". Suddenly my friend and I saw six mounted police charge, seemingly unprovoked, into a whistling, booing crowd opposite. As drink cans began to be hurled all around us by angered white and black males, we fled with other women and children as fast as we could.

Carnival '89 was special — the most peaceful, fantastic, imaginative, and well-organized yet. But although years of experience have finely tuned the event itself, the successful dispersal of its massive crowds remains a dangerous puzzle.

Why was carnival closing time not broadly publicised, especially in the press? The first we heard was from a radio broadcast at 6.45 p.m., announcing the 7 o'clock close. Why were carnival-goers being allowed into the area after this time? I saw people still arriving from the Holland Park side.

Why cannot there be a slower, more gradual winding down of the festivities? Why cannot the music floats be used as "pied pipers" to safely lead the home-bound revelers out of the area, as did the last float to turn down Westbourne Grove with its human "tail", still well-behaved, still dancing, to Notting Hill Gate? And why cannot carnival stewards on all departing procession vehicles cheerfully megaphone the crowds with latest exit route and safety advice, and messages of good will?

I believe that police are necessary at events this size and they do, on the whole, a superb job. But I cannot help wondering if crowd-dispersal can be better effected by a trained community force, using subtler psychology, greater patience, and better (and friendlier) communication systems, leaving the police to be called in as a last resort only.

Carnival gives people from all backgrounds a chance to mix and enjoy themselves. I look forward to Carnival 1990 and I hope there will be new solutions found to ensure its complete success.

Yours etc.,
JACKIE PRUSKIN,
30 Sheffield Terrace, W8,
August 31.

Countryside service

From the Director General of the Country Landowners' Association

Sir, The Country Landowners' Association has already proposed an environmental land-management service, to be provided countryside, by which landowners and farmers can provide the public with the environment it wants at the price it is willing to pay (Marion Shoard's article, "Cutting the cost of countryside protection", August 21).

Examples are landscapes, habitats for flora and fauna, and recreational areas for conservationists, naturalists, and sporting organisations. This can be done now under simple contracts to give a service for an agreed price.

There will be many instances where local authorities will be the customer. Where central involvement is justified it will be the Government which fills that role.

Landowners will not be liable to the accusation that they are paid for doing nothing. If they do not deliver what they have promised, they will be subject to all the penalties to which a contractor is liable who fails to fulfil his side of an agreement.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES DOUGLAS,
Director General,
Country Landowners' Association,
16 Belgrave Square, SW1.

In praise of parks

From Dr J. H. B. Beal

Sir, Mr John Hulton's letter (August 28) states that the royal parks are noticeably less well looked after than they used to be. This is most unjust.

Throughout this glorious summer I have enjoyed the flowers of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens on an average about three days a week. They are better than they have ever been. Not only have there been more of them, but they have been most expertly arranged.

In addition, the terraces built over recent years at the east end of the Serpentine are just beginning to show how well planned they are and what pleasure they will soon give us.

I hope that the minister concerned will see to it that whoever is responsible reaches the Honours list.

Yours faithfully,
JACK BEAL,
61 Cadogan Square, SW1,
August 28.

Quite fair?

From Lord Leigh

Sir, As a former host to the Country Landowners' Association Game Fair, I find it incredible that Margam, near Swansea, has been chosen as next year's site. Margam is owned by a council which, I understand, has banned all hunting over its land.

There may be a very good reason for this choice, but it escapes me.

Yours faithfully,
LEIGH,
Stonleigh Abbey,
Kemilworth, Warwickshire,
August 29.

Cool appraisal

From Mr J. W. Hodge

Sir, Bryan Appleby's comments (Diary, August 28) about Edinburgh's alleged "cultural winter" stirred an echo. While at school in the city in the early 1960s I chanced upon a poem in *I, Believe*, a small literary magazine. Source and text now elude me, save for a quatrain:

You may talk of Brocht and Pinter,
But if you think this town
Is culture's crown,
You should come here in the winter.

I remain a loyal son of Auld Reekie: as R. L. Stevenson observed, once she has put her hand on a man's shoulder she never leaves his heart.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. HODGE,
British Embassy,
Kastelsvej 40,
2100 Copenhagen, Denmark,
August 29.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01) 782 5046.

[illegible]

THE ARTS

Hopeless cases and history

TELEVISION

Oscar Moore

Huddled in the gloom of a multi sitting room, between a slumbering grandmother and a red-headed television, Terry Jones grins, cocks his head and bows with frustration. In the bare-walled kitchen, his mother makes another cup of tea for the two of them. "He gets bored, very bored," she tells the camera. "It makes me nervous. It makes me sad. It makes me ill."

Terry Jones is severely mentally handicapped, with behavioural problems arising from the intense frustration of life with nothing to do, nowhere to go, no one to help. His mother is with him from dawn to dusk, bathing, toileting, feeding, entertaining him as best she can, but the boys she bought him are ignored and the television, that magnet for restless kids, does not attract him.

But then, Terry is not a kid anymore. That is the problem. If he were under 19, he would be in a special school with constant attention, therapy and stimulation, his needs protected by statutory legislation. But Terry has entered the twilight world of the handicapped adult described with measured outrage in the *Open Space* film, *No Life of My Own* (BBC2). It is a shadow of a life, lit only by sporadic trips to the day-care centre, where places are scarce and waiting lists long.

We seem to have become used to the scandal of a run-down Welfare State which abandons the helpless, heaping the burden on ill-equipped and untrained parents. There was a grim inevitability about the angry face to face between Avon councillors and local parents of handicapped adults. As the parents shouted their frustration, councillors could only offer them the tunc of statistics. Programmes like this stoke the embers of concern. What does it take to spark action and change?

I now approach every major historical anniversary in the grim expectation that a dramatic reconstruction cluttered with RSC notables is about to interpret events through the lens of the Great British Acting Style. I wish the National Theatre of Brent would do for the *Countdown to War* (ITV) what they did for the French Revolution, but in the meantime we must content with Ian McKellen's lockjawed Hitler and Ronald Harwood's illustrated history book script. Although weighed down with a mission to explain, Harwood's meandering drama pays even dividends in his lucid re-enactment of the last hours before war. Chamberlain, pressed by his Cabinet to mobilize and by the French to delay, is caught in an intolerable clinch. If nothing else, *Countdown to War* does much to vindicate a long-vilified prime minister.

Richard Williams, animator creator of *Roger Rabbit*, talks to Geoff Brown about the legacy of Walt Disney, whose work is the subject of a forthcoming season at the National Film Theatre

The only time Richard Williams saw Walt Disney was at the maestro's Burbank studios in 1952. Williams, the Canadian-born animation wizard — most recently responsible for the cartoon portions of *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* — had come to see a preview of *Peter Pan*. Already disappointed by the film's visual style, he stepped into the corridor to find Disney giving an impassioned sales pitch to a hypnotized woman in green — a reporter for *Look* magazine. Williams, then 19, left the studio chastened; if that is what cartoons were all about, he thought, goodbye cartoons. He packed himself off to Spain and set up his painter's easel.

Williams's relationship with Disney's films — which are the subject of an enormous retrospective at the National Film Theatre over the next two months — has seen-sawed dramatically. At the age of five, he saw *Snow White* and the *Seven Dwarfs* on its first release. It was love at first sight. Encouraged by his mother, an all-purpose illustrator with Disney contacts, he scoured Toronto's magazine stores for articles on animation, and avidly awaited the subsequent Disney features — *Pinochio*, *Fantasia*, *Bambi*, *Dumbo*.

Then in 1948 he arrived in Los Angeles by Greyhound bus. Disney was preparing *Alice in Won-*



He's got it: Richard Williams (above, left) at one of his genuine Disney animator's desks; (above right) details from *Bambi* (1942, top) and *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* (1988)

derland, and Williams went along to watch. "They were wonderfully nice to me," Williams now recalls. "It was paradise." But dark clouds were already gathering. Was there not a Hallmark greeting-card touch to the *Alice* style? And next to Rembrandt, was animation not, well, a bit silly?

The turning point came in the mid-1950s, when Williams was in England making *The Little Island*, a philosophical parable for the atomic age. "During production, I saw *Bambi*, and thought 'What a pile of sugary, mercilessly manipulated junk! Then, when I finished the film and realized for the first time I didn't know beans about the medium, I saw *Bambi* again. I came out on my knees. Wow, I said, look at that creature walk! I had no interest in anthropomorphic animals, but the technique was amazing."

"I was like all the young animators who suddenly get their hands on a camera. We go straight for making our Serious Statement,

and then crash, usually after 15 minutes. If we stretch our film to 25 minutes, the audience has probably gone out to the foyer. Only Disney seemed able to get over half an hour, and sustain interest in these moving drawings."

In one word you can sum up the reason: believability. No matter how far-fetched the action, how impossibly cute and cuddly the creatures, Disney's animators could make everything look real. Knowing the characters' weight was essential. Bad animation, Williams discovered, floats or jerks across the screen; good animation has solidity, fluidity, power and elegance.

In the 1960s Williams's career prospered in Britain; he made inventive shorts, credit sequences for live-action features such as *What's New, Pussycat?*, and many, many commercials. But he still felt himself lacking that Disney knack. After being "blown away" in 1967 by the stunning animation

in *Jungle Book* — the last cartoon Disney personally produced — Williams sent himself and his London studio back to school. Their teachers were Hollywood's animation veterans, who came over for seminars and practical work: giants such as Art Babbitt, Frank Thomas, Ollie Johnston, Ken Harris and Milt Kahl — the man whose *Jungle Book* animation caused Williams's jaw to drop open with wonder.

"Have you got it?" Kahl kept teasing him as Williams battled to gauge the distribution of weight in animated characters — the Disney formula's secret ingredient. Finally, five years ago, Williams felt he had, and showed Kahl 15 minutes of his long-gestating project *The Thief and the Cobbler*, an Arabian Nights adventure. "You've got it," Kahl said; Williams was in seventh heaven.

The animation's quality was such that Williams was asked to head the huge cartoon unit on

Who Framed Roger Rabbit, co-produced by the Disney company and Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment. At first he was sceptical; he hated Disney's attempts in the 1940s at blending animation and live-action. But he became intrigued by the technical challenge, tempted, too, by the chance to raise his profile and get funding to finish *The Thief*.

"I want three things," director Robert Zemeckis told him. "I want Disney articulation, Warner Brothers characters, and Tex Avery humour." (Avery is the king of violent, screwball animation.) Williams summoned up all his new skills to deliver the goods, though he thought the film's helter-skelter pace would exhaust the audience ("you're old, Dick," Zemeckis countered), and tried in vain to give screaming, wacky Roger a few quiet, sympathetic moments.

But there were many good side-effects to the film that Williams

simply refers to as "the Rabbit". He won a Special Oscar, for one. He discovered a new crop of skilled young animators. He was able to pore over the Disney archive, studying vintage artwork drawn by the masters; this he terms his "postgraduate work".

He also came away — quite legally — with two Disney desks, shaped like Wurlitzer organs and equipped with every shelf an animator could desire, built in the late 1930s. One sits at his studio; the other is squeezed into his home office, where he sits late into the night excitedly sketching sequences for *The Thief* (now approaching the home stretch after 23 years), absorbing the Disney craftsmanship by osmosis.

● The Disney season begins at the National Film Theatre (01-928 3232) on Tuesday with a gala screening of *Fantasia* and continues until November 9. On October 8, Frank Thomas and Ollie Johnston, two veteran Disney animators, will be interviewed on stage.

Vignettes of life in a pub and an experience of voyeurism

THEATRE

To Pleasance

The Bolton Octagon will open its autumn season with *To a Pleasance*, a new work from its writer-in-residence Jim Cartwright (of *Road and Bed* fame), which the company has just given its premiere in Edinburgh. Andrew Hay directs the production, which boasts the excellent double-act of Sue Johnston and John McArdle (both of whom appear in Channel 4's soap opera, *Brookside*), will doubtless do

much to further the Octagon's good name outside Lancashire. *To* is set in a pub. Presented through an engaging series of bar-stool vignettes, it employs two actors not only as landlord and wife, but also as a variety of customers. The landlord quips his way through tired gags — "A pint of a lager and a double Scotch? Not in the same glass I hope!"

Not in the same glass I hope? While his amiable wife drinks the profits. Their bitter marriage is one of several relationships which the play unearths as each new character comes into the pub to fuel frustrated lives with favourite tipples.

There is the widower who says little but dreams contentedly of

his dead but dearly-loved wife; the fat old couple who watch the bar's television and reminisce about old movies; the young couple where the violent-bully husband is squeezing the individuality out of his fragile wife; and so on.

The dialogue trips along with good humour, and the actors are adept at conveying quickly the characters and their lives. The theme is really adult love in a mundane world where romance is the stuff of fantasy alone. At the core is a tormented marriage, but the play resolves itself in touching and unsentimental optimism, although the dénouement is abrupt.

Julian Ellison



The Man Who Had Three Arms
Southside International

The European premiere of Edward Albee's *The Man Who Had Three Arms* turned out to be one of those audience "experiences" for which

the Edinburgh Fringe is renowned. As we shuffle into our seats, a nervous chairman asks us whether we are ready to begin, and we become spectators awaiting a titillating lecture from the "man who used to have three arms".

Albee supervised the production, having granted to Albright College and director Dr Lynn Morrow the exclusive stage rights. His faith has been rewarded, especially by the superb Edward Fernandez in the central role. In the first half he rambles, embarrasses and bores, as only a seasoned lecturer can.

By the interval, some of the audience has left. This, it appears, is Albee's intention.

When the rest return, having been chased out of the bar, the "freak" is ready to reward our patience — at last offering the gory details of the saga. As chairpeople and cameo actors, John Schuba and Saidah Ekeneke play out his bitter recollections of problems with his wife and with the businessman who reaped the profits of the arm. But the audience is to be punished as well as entertained — Fernandez roams from row to row forcing us to imagine ourselves in his position, then shocks us by revealing what he has become as a result of our collective voyeurism.

Stephanie Billen

Parodied preachers lost in the desert

Carnage
St Bride's Centre

On their first trip to this country, the Actors' Gang from Los Angeles bring a play that shows them at their best and at their worst: a swirling attack on America's dreadful television evangelists, that reaches its deadly climax by a seriously disorganized route.

The two authors, Tim Robbins (founder of the Gang) and Adam Simon, wisely do not bother with accusations of sexual hypocrisy. In fact, their play must be one of the very few in the Festival, Official or Fringe, where nobody for-

nicates, commits adultery or even mates with a spouse.

In the first half the target is the televangelists' insatiable greed. The Reverend Doctor Cotton Slocum unctuously appeals to his audience to send more than they can afford to his blatantly commercial enterprise, "God's Little Acre". Faced with declining ratings, he sets off on a sponsored pilgrimage to the Las Vegas desert, dressed as a Pilgrim Father and attended by the Press.

Because the target of a grasping preacher is a broad one the company's scattershot approach often scores good hits. Lee Arenberg's barrel

girth and reptilian smile makes Slocum a comic creature in the fascinating monster mould. No one in his right mind would buy a second-hand Bible from such an obvious rogue — but, as one of the hymns in the show proudly declares, "Don't bend your knee to the voice of reason!"

The second half of the evening is a mess. Slocum has been blown up by a bomb and thinks he is in heaven; chance brings him back to his happy acre, where one of his deacons has taken command and proves to be infinitely more dangerous than his former boss. In Ned Bellamy's closing

address the smooth progression from patriotism through God to crazed right-wing politics is shrewdly observed; all the more sinister for being delivered with the gestures of courtesy and common sense.

But although the writing is spot-on when it parodies the ghastly nonsense of the television Bible shows, it keeps losing its way in the desert, on the Interstate and in the homes of Slocum's silly trusting audience. He raves for too long in the wilderness, while the guns-to-war games are rushed and muddled. Sturdy performances, though.

Jeremy Kingston

Breath of new life

PROMS

BBC SO/Davis
Albert Hall/Radio3

Sir Michael Tippett's Fourth Symphony of 1977, still his most recent in this category, traces in its unbroken span of 30 minutes what he calls a "birth to death" cycle. The 84-year-old composer, dapper as ever in striped jacket and pink bow-tie, heard the BBC Symphony Orchestra's performance on Wednesday from the stalls, and was vociferously acclaimed by the Prommeaders when the conductor, Andrew Davis, led him forward at the end.

Davis had obtained a compelling performance of what is one of the composer's most representative works in its concentrated and wide-ranging fancy: a musical soundscape of varied contours and recurring landmarks, densely planted and richly illuminated.

New means were tried of realising the "breath of life" sounds at the beginning, at the central climax and at the end, with a synthesized control of electronic sound-sources. The effect was unobtrusive and evocative amid the otherwise conventional instrumentation with its multiple percussion and brass and its six horns given a challenge to which they splendidly responded.

The most lasting impression is this music's wealth of poetic

invention, from moonlit delicacy to raging storm, vigorously propelled by an imagination that has looked beyond the narrow parameters of much other contemporary music and found a means to share its experience in direct appeal to all ages among its listeners. It had a performance of firm control, and fine judgement as well as orchestral accomplishment.

Earlier, Stephen Hough was the soloist in the B-flat major Piano Concerto by Brahms. He lacked nothing in technical expertise, but took a rose-tinted view of its content, favouring a dreamy, Chopin-esque approach in the relentless surge of the first two movements. This left little possibility of lyrical contrast later, although the orchestra's first cellist was a fine solo partner in the slow movement, and the pianist's keen sense of rhythm helped to project a welcome good humour in the final rondo.

Noel Goodwin

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1792
MARCH 16
Gustavus III, King of Sweden, assassinated at a masked ball

1858
JANUARY 13
Attempted assassination of Napoleon III outside Paris Opera
Verdi's opera *A Masked Ball* banned in Naples

1859
FEBRUARY 17
Verdi's censored version of *A Masked Ball* finally performed in Rome

1984
DECEMBER 20
Tchaikovsky's chain-saw *Mazeppa* staged for ENO by Alden and Fielding. Elder conducts

1987
APRIL 2
Elder conducts Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* in a provocative staging by Alden and Fielding

1989
SEPTEMBER 14
First night of *A MASKED BALL* at English National Opera
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David Alden directs
David Fielding designs
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Three at the top: from left, Sara Morrison, Margaret Downes and Jean Denton are among 24 women with seats on the boards of the top 200 UK companies

Board women

While women have launched successful businesses, a report out today shows that few British companies have female directors. Victoria McKee investigates

To become a board member on a top UK industrial company, a woman nearly always needs to be Oxbridge educated, or have a title or family connection to the business, and be in her fifties, says a report published today called "Powder in the Boardroom" from the Ashridge Management Research Group.

The report claims there are now 24 women directors, the vast majority non-executive and/or part-time, on the boards of the top 200 of the Times Top 1,000 UK companies. Although nearly triple the number three years ago, it is still a depressing statistic, according to Val Hammond, the woman behind the report.

"They are largely a privileged group with family connections," Hammond says. "They are not mainstream corporate women, which is what we'd like to see coming through, as they are beginning to in subsidiary companies and the world of finance."

She points out that Lady Grantham, non-executive director at Littlewoods, is the daughter of the founder, Sir John Moores; Olga Polizzi, executive director at Trusthouse Forte, is the daughter of Lord Forte and sister of chief executive, Rocco Forte.

Titled women include Baroness Platt of Writtle, recently appointed to the board of British Gas as a non-executive director, the Duchess of Devonshire, a non-executive director on Tarmac's board since 1984, Baroness Oppenheim Barnes, the former Consumer Affairs Minister, a non-executive director of Boots since 1982, and Baroness Young, who became a non-executive director of Marks & Spencer in 1987 because, the

report quotes her as saying, "my knowledge of Parliament and local government would be useful".

There is a significant difference, Hammond believes, between the executive and non-executive woman director — although the same woman can be both with different companies. Jean Denton, a non-executive director of British Nuclear Fuels, is also a director of Bursdon Marsteller and deputy chairman of the Black Country Development Board.

Executive directors — employed full-time by a company — such as the Hon Sara Morrison of the General Electric Company, are more likely to be mainstream career women, Hammond says. Non-executive directors — outsiders offered a seat for reasons of expertise or reputation — are likely to be "board housewives" who took a less direct route through voluntary work. An example is Diana Eccles, non-executive director of Sainsbury's, who has been vice-chairman of Durham University Council and the National Council of Voluntary, and served on the Advisory Council on Energy Conservation, the Charities Aid Foundation and as chairman of the Ealing Health Authority.

But Hammond has no desire to disparage the dilettante non-executive director, who brings a breath of fresh air from outside the industry concerned. "They are usually

people of vision, coming not from where you were, but taking you where you're going," she says.

The "board housewife" theory of non-executive directors is disproved by Eileen Cole, non-executive director of the Post Office since 1980 and a dedicated businesswoman, now in her sixties, who admits she gave up marriage for a career "since in my day it was thought you couldn't do both", and was formerly chairman of a Unilever company; also by Denton, former corporate affairs director for Austin Rover, and Dr Caroline Jackson, the MEP recently voted on to Peugeot Talbot UK's board as a non-executive director.

Jackson, who is younger than the traditional stereotype, has an Oxbridge qualification and was probably invited for her political connections as a member of the European Parliament — to which she believes more companies will be looking for directors as 1992 approaches. "Companies should be looking for more women concerned with the consumer movement — like Baroness Oppenheim Barnes," she suggests. "They need to look at areas of working life in which women excel."

Denton — scornful of the report because of its title — points out that "there simply isn't a big enough database of women with plc experience yet for companies to choose from". The Fawcett Society,

which keeps a database of hundreds of women experts in various fields, can muster only "around 30" potential candidates of women available, and eager, for non-executive directorships, which can each bring in a useful £5,000 or more a year.

Richard Dixon, corporate affairs spokesman for the Storehouse group which, like London Regional Transport and British Rail, boasts two women on its main board (Sheila Forbes, its personnel director, and Dr Margaret Downes, a non-executive director), confirms that the picture is likely to change.

"We already have several women chief executive officers in our companies," he says. "And sex doesn't come into our appointments of board directors at all."

Hammond stresses the difficulties of compiling such a survey, and acknowledges that some women who feature in it, like Sien Yin Cheng Kai On, executive director of Atlantic Computers Systems, are merely ciphers to her and obviously prefer to remain that way, having refused to supply any additional information.

She quotes Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the TSB Group, as saying he believes there will be "something of a breakthrough in the next 10 years, because more women are getting qualifications and industrial experience now than 10 years ago". On learning of the report a

Pray for wisdom



BARBARA AMIEL

There are 14 nuns living in the Carmelite convent on the site of the former concentration camp of Auschwitz in Poland. The nuns have created a vegetable garden there, at a place where once the canisters of Zyklon B were stored for the gas chambers. According to newspaper reports there is now a statue of the Virgin Mary overlooking the neat rows of potatoes and peas. There are rosebeds as well.

I tried, just for a moment, to imagine how those nuns must see the world at this particular moment. The Carmelites set up their nunnery in 1984. Their purpose, as I understand it, was to live on this blood-soaked piece of land and pray for the souls of both the victims and murderers of Auschwitz. This offended some members of the Jewish community abroad, who felt that Auschwitz should be left undisturbed as a memorial to the Jews who had died in the Holocaust. A 1987 meeting of Jewish and Catholic leaders in Geneva agreed to relocate the convent by February 22, 1989 and to make sure that "no Catholic permanent place of worship" would exist at the death camp.

But February passed and still the nuns tended their vegetables, next to the bleak block-houses filled with the ghoulish pyramids of spectacles and shoes once worn by men and women who perished in the Final Solution. There were protests and denunciations. Then, last July, half a dozen American Jews climbed the fence surrounding the convent and attempted to meet the nuns. They were forcibly evicted by Polish workers as the nuns and Polish police watched.

The Carmelites are a contemplative order, and perhaps that is why so far the Press has not carried any remarks from them concerning the fuss over their mission. There they sit, hands on rosary beads when not doing their laundry or scrubbing the floors, their eyes turned towards heaven, their voices raised to the same God they share with the Jews. What can they be thinking as they watch the American protesters advancing upon them, all decked out in striped shirts and trousers mimicking the uniform Auschwitz inmates once wore? What must they think as they see the placards, and hear the incomprehensible yell about "Polish Nazis"?

Well, I know what I think. I marvel at the small-mindedness of the American protesters who, in the face of all the genuine problems facing mankind — not to mention the problems facing both the Poles and the Jews in the Soviet Union — can raise this issue. Indeed, one marvels at the capacity of human beings in general for pettiness. It is a capacity that seems to exceed even that of cruelty and avarice.

It is true, of course, that one can pray to God from any spot on earth and, with this in mind, it was probably ill-advised for the Carmelites to

non-Jews, murdered in the same Holocaust, gassed at the same site, some exterminated simply because they tried to help us? Truly, some elements of our people go out of their way to invite the justified resentment of other human beings.

No such resentment could ever justify the measures that have been taken against us Jews, of course. But the idea that 100 Jewish students from western Europe would march in protest against the nuns, or that the World Jewish Congress would be passing a resolution to hasten eviction of the contemplative order, shows, to my mind, a lack of taste, humility and wisdom that is quite astonishing.

My own view is that most people who actually survived Auschwitz will have nothing to do with these protests — they will not object to anyone praying for the victims of that awful nightmare, nor any person, not anywhere, nor of any religion. Survivors are made of tempered steel. They have gone through fire. It is their children, not they, who make these protests, and need psychiatrists and slogans to deal with the Holocaust.

It is a totally separate question that if the Carmelite nuns had decided to pray for Jews while the Holocaust was going on, the slaughter might not have taken place. There is no question in my mind that the Catholic Church could have condemned the mass extermination of innocent people of any race or religion with total impunity throughout the years of the Third Reich. But having said that, well, better late than never. Nothing is helped by making an issue of praying nuns in 1989.

Indeed, one marvels at the capacity of human beings in general for pettiness

choose Auschwitz as their particular spot. The Vatican, after all, did sign a concordat with Hitler, and while there are many historical reasons for this, speaking as a Jew myself I really don't think it was necessary for the Catholic Church to take up residence at the very place where Hitler murdered several million of us.

But this decision seems to me dwarfed by the awesome stupidity of American rabbis in striped pyjamas trying, in a Catholic country, to prevent nuns from praying — praying, for heaven's sake — to the same God. How could the protesters even consider doing this, in the full knowledge that many of Auschwitz's victims for whom the nuns pray were

A great deal of fuss was stirred up this week when the Prime Minister, Cardinal Glemp, implied that the protesters might have jeopardized the lives of the nuns. All sorts of people discovered virulent anti-Semitism in his comments. For my money, whether or not the cardinal's words were ill-chosen, he was certainly correct from a factual point of view. When people climb walls and fences to invade other people's property, at some point someone may get hurt. Only I think the cardinal got it the wrong way around. In the contest between a fully grown Polish nun and a New York American rabbi, I'd put my money on the Carmelites. But as it is, I can only invoke the Bard in wishing a healthy dose of plague on both their houses.

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Plastic gold

In The Netherlands, woe be to shoppers who arrive at supermarkets empty-handed: they are likely to be faced with a guilt-inducing array of "banks" for collection of old batteries, textiles, paper, board, plastics, several shades of glass, even used motor oil. There's no reason why British consumers shouldn't be afforded similar opportunities for recycling," says Tesco's consumer affairs director, Richard Taylor, who has just

ECOSPHERE



brought that eco-Utopia one step nearer by launching the chain's first plastic fizzy drink bottle bank, at Colney Hatch, north London. "It's an experiment — but we believe the public will embrace the idea with gusto and show the plastics industry there's a real demand for recycling facilities in the UK," Taylor says. All

proceeds from the recycled materials are donated to charities to help create urban wildlife projects.

Singular sinks

Modern sinks have an average life of just 10 years, yet they are indestructible — and therefore planet-unfriendly; when stripped out of a kitchen, most are buried and will remain there for eternity. So if you are installing a new sink, consider the deep, fireclay variety beloved of our Victorian ancestors and now in keeping with the fashion for unfitted kitchens. They are also

surprisingly resilient: "You'd have to drop a Le Creuset casserole from a great height to damage them," says Richard Tyack of Brass & Traditional Sinks, which makes several styles of fireclay sink by using methods which have not changed for 100 years. "Manufacturers often have a problem disposing of sinks which are damaged during production," Tyack says. "We just smash them up into a powder and start all over again." For stockists of the sinks, which range from £101 to £288, contact the company at Devauden Green, nr Chesham, Gwent NP6 6PL (02915 738).

Kids speak out

Ben Elton has observed that "we are not inheriting this earth, we are borrowing it from our children", but children themselves are demonstrating a strong grasp of ecological issues, as BBC1's beguiling new four-part series, *Wildside*, proves. Seven to 14-year-old presenters and commentators are allowed to speak for themselves on topics such as rain forest destruction. The show also focuses on projects children are running — feeding badgers on peanut butter, running patrols to protect migrant toads. "What's satisfying about children is that they sum up clearly things which become clouded by adults," producer Paul Appleby says, adding that the programme may help a new generation grow up with "a real understanding of ecological responsibility". For a walk on the *Wildside*, tune in weekly from Tuesday at 4.30pm.

Josephine Fairley

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City Editor
John Bell

THE POUND

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3.0786 (-0.0022)
Exchange index
91.5 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1977.6 (+6.7)
FT-SE 100
2387.9 (+6.6)
USM (Datastream)
171.65 (+0.35)

Bowater holding

A slip-up at Bowater Industries has allowed it to keep secret a stake in Istock Johnson, the building materials group, for more than 18 months.

Bowater bought a 4.9 per cent holding in February last year. It thought the holding did not have to be disclosed. However, the company's finance department failed to notice that the stake was worth almost 6 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Under Stock Exchange regulations, any acquisition of more than 5 per cent of funds must be announced.

Pentland rise

Mr Stephen Rubin, chairman of Pentland Group, is expected to make a big acquisition in the next 18 months. He can afford to spend up to £250 million. Pentland's pre-tax profits increased by 15 per cent to £41.9 million in the six months to June. The interim dividend is 0.25p.

Tempus, page 22

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2727.20 (-0.95)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	34431.20 (-40.46)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2508.57 (+3.17)
Amsterdam	Amst 100	1821.10 (+0.4)
Frankfurt	DAX	1597.85 (+11.87)
Brussels	Brux 100	6490.80 (+4.15)
Paris	CAC	5231.20 (+2.3)
Zurich	SIX	665.10 (+5.4)
London	FT 30	1977.6 (+6.7)
London	FT-SE 100	2387.9 (+6.6)
London	FT-SE 100	2387.9 (+6.6)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

SEB	424p (+10p)
SG	44p (+10p)
Marley	147p (+11p)
Brit Aerospace	712p (+18p)
Western Motor	67.45 (+15p)
Campani	280p (+10p)
Carlton Comm	857p (+10p)
Antelias	148p (+11p)
UK Paper	280p (+15p)
WCRS	308p (+18p)
Moss Bros	240p (+3p)
MacLennan	281p (+15p)
Royal Telecom	374p (+22p)
Royal Elec	233p (+11p)
THORN EMI	857p (+12p)
United	397p (+10p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	14%
3-month interbank	14 1/4-14%
3-month eligible bills	13 1/2-13 3/4%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	10 1/4%
Federal Funds	8 1/4%
3-month Treasury	7.85-7.89%
30-year bonds	9 1/2-9 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£: \$1.5735	£: \$1.5735
£: DM1.9683	£: DM1.9683
£: Sfr1.6880	£: Sfr1.6880
£: FF10.3953	£: FF10.3953
£: Yen144.55	£: Yen144.55
£: Indec91.5	£: Indec91.5
£: Indec91.5	£: Indec91.5

GOLD

London Fixing	AM \$359.80 PM \$359.80
Close	\$359.75-360.25 (\$228.50-229.00)
New York	Comex \$359.90-360.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sep)	\$17.15 bbl (\$16.95)
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TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia	2.145	2.015
Canada	22.50	21.25
Denmark	67.45	65.50
France	1.50	1.22
Germany	12.26	11.78
Italy	16.77	16.17
Japan	21.95	20.25
Netherlands	275.50	265.50
Portugal	1.200	1.130
Spain	16.82	16.52
Sweden	24.12	22.50
Switzerland	3.255	3.055
USA	11.28	11.05
UK	297.75	281.75
South Africa	4.75	4.55
Spain	180	187
Sweden	18.82	18.52
Switzerland	2.745	2.595
Turkey	2880	2890
USA	1.655	1.625
Yugoslavia	50000	40000

Postel blow to Goldsmith's bid for BAT

By Colin Campbell

Postel, manager of £17 billion of Post Office and British Telecom pension funds, making it one of the largest institutional investors in Britain, yesterday voted against aspects - and publicly criticized controversial plans - of Sir James Goldsmith's Anglo Group, Hoyle's parent.

Postel's action is the first indication of what is thought to be widespread institutional opposition to Hoyle's £13.5 billion bid for BAT.

Mr Andrew Threadgold, Postel's chief executive, told Sir James at an extraordinary meeting of Anglo's bond and equity holders that Postel objected to Anglo's profit override on a BAT takeover, and that other proposals smacked of paranoia.

Mr Threadgold questioned what he called "unnecessary" (financial) protection of three people - and I cannot think of three independent people (Sir James, Mr Kerry Packer and Mr Jacob Rothschild) more able to look after themselves."

Postel voted both its 1 per cent holding of Anglo's 9.5 per cent bonds and its 1 per cent of Anglo's ordinary shares against one of four resolutions before the meeting.

The essence of Anglo's resolutions was to approve the bid via Hoyle for BAT, and to amend certain articles of association. Postel voted in favour of one resolution at the ordinary meeting and abstained from the remaining two. All motions were carried.

Mr Threadgold told *The Times* Postel found no difficulty in accepting that there were profit partnerships in venture capital companies. But he believed it "a dubious sort of thing" for public companies to have such profit overrides. In addition, Anglo-Hoyle's proposals slanted the way of three main players.

His vote against Anglo was based on two premises: because of the profits override - by which it receives "an 8 per cent" slice of the non-tobacco BAT cake - any successful takeover by Anglo/Hoyle of BAT would further disadvantage BAT shareholders, who would land up "owning" only 60 per cent of BAT. In addition, the interests of certain minority shareholders in Hoyle were being entrenched unnecessarily, he said.

A legal representative of BAT, holder of a token 300 Anglo Group shares, also attended the meeting but made no public comment.

Sir James admitted Hoyle had suffered from the "massive, intensive and thwarting

Day secures group's place with two purchases



Sweet taste of success: Sir Graham Day, chairman, celebrates the new purchases yesterday

Cadbury to pay £141m for Crush

By John Bell
City Editor

Cadbury Schweppes has underpinned its place as number three in the world soft drinks league with the proposed £141 million purchase of Crush from Procter & Gamble.

When formalities are complete, the deal will boost Cadbury's world-wide drinks volumes by 30 per cent.

The purchase was disclosed, along with better-than-expected interim profits and a smaller acquisition in Canada, by Sir Graham Day, the group's new chairman.

Crush, P&G's soft drinks operation, had sales of £46 million in the year to end June. Its assets - a mere £6 million - are mainly brand names and trademarks. Profits, on Cadbury's accounting principles, were £14 million last year.

The deal will boost Cadbury's share of the vast US carbonated drinks market from 3.6 per cent to 4.7 per cent and from 11 per cent to 15 per cent in Canada.

In Europe, the group's market share will also rise significantly - from 3.1 per cent to 4.6 per cent in Belgium and from 7.5 per cent to 9.6 per cent in France.

Crush sales will complement the Cadbury drinks businesses in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East, lifting sales almost 50 per cent.

The Canadian purchase, the juice activities of ED Smith & Sons, will add sales of £11.5 million and assets of £4.8 million. Both are part of the group strategy to move deeper into the international soft drinks businesses. Soft drinks now represent about half of Cadbury's operations.

Sir Graham revealed interim profits of £94.9 million, up 16.2 per cent. Sales were 11.2 per cent higher at £1.18 billion. Earnings per share showed a reported rise of only 8.9 per cent to 9.77p. But after adjusting for an accounting change in tax treatment which boosted earnings last year, the underlying increase was 19.4 per cent.

Shareholders will receive a 2.8p (2.4p) half-time payout. The shares shed 1p to 413p.

Danish buyer starts investment industry shake-up

Prolific agrees £90m takeover

By Cliff Feltham

A shakeup in the investment industry got under way yesterday when Prolific, the privately-owned unit trust group, agreed to a £90 million takeover from Hafnia, the Danish group.

At the same time, a £3 billion alliance of investment management groups was forged when the Bank of Scotland merged its fund management operation with the Dunedin group.

Prolific, the 15th largest unit trust business in Britain - demerged from the Provincial Insurance group last year - has been keen to find a buyer able to provide the financial backing for an expansion into the Far East and Europe.

Last year, Prolific made £3.1 million profit on £195 million total revenues. Funds under management total £1.6 billion. Prolific has four main divisions, unit trusts, life and pensions, asset management, and a branch network selling through independent intermediaries and tied agents.

There was little surprise that it surrendered its independence to a European group anxious to expand into Britain ahead of 1992. Hafnia, the second largest financial services group in Denmark, made £36 million pre-tax profits last year and reported £3.3 billion assets.

The terms, backed by the family interests which speak for 77 per cent of Prolific, represent an exit multiple of more than 43 times last year's earnings.

Meanwhile, the Bank of Scotland is merging British Linen Bank, its merchant banking offshoot, with Dunedin Fund Managers to create the third largest investment management group in Scotland with assets of nearly £3 billion. British Linen Bank will hold a 50.5 per cent stake in the enlarged business.

Dunedin has specialized in building up a strong institutional client base, particularly in Japan and the US. It manages investment trusts, including Edinburgh Investment Trust and the North American Trust.

British Linen Bank's main function has been to run the Bank of Scotland pension fund, although it also handles venture capital funds.

Mr Eric Sanderson, chief executive of British Linen Bank, said: "We planned to develop our fund management business on a significantly larger scale and found a way of doing this by getting together with Dunedin. The merger should help us to become a significant force in the fund management business."

Mr Hamish Buchan, analyst at County NatWest Wood-Mac, said: "The deal brings together two strands of the Scottish financial scene and should be a stepping stone towards further expansion in the fund management sector."

Rival Myson bids referred to MMC

By Melinda Wittstock

Two rival bids for Myson, the central heating and ventilation group, were referred unexpectedly to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission yesterday, sending its shares plummeting 23p to 210p.

In an unusual situation, both bids - an agreed £196 million offer from Blue Circle Industries, the cement group, and a £180 million previously-agreed offer from Yale & Valor, the securities group - were referred by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, on different grounds.

It is feared a combined Myson/BCI group would limit competition in the gas boilers market, while a Myson/Yale & Valor link-up would freeze out competitors on the gas fires side.

Official estimates put the combined gas fires market share of Yale and Myson at 31 per cent, leaving three other contenders in the market.

The combined market share of Myson and BCI, which owns Potterton, the gas boiler group, would be about 30 per cent, leaving three others with market shares in the teens.

BCI and Myson would also have a 43 per cent share of the important wall-mounted central heating boilers, which represents 46 per cent of the total £300 million boiler market.

It is thought that if either bid was allowed to go ahead, new entrants to the business could be kept out and prices could rise.

But analysts expect the MMC, with three months to study both deals, to allow the Blue Circle bid to go ahead.

The DTI has also referred BCI's 29.5 per cent Myson stake to the MMC, and has prohibited it from exercising more than 15 per cent or more of voting rights.

Yale is prohibited from acquiring more than 15 per cent of Myson in the market.

Brittan backs 'home control' of European bank branches

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

When European banks take advantage of the new European Community legislation to open branches in other EC countries, control of these branches will remain the responsibility of the central banks in their home country, Sir Leon Brittan, the EC Commissioner for banking and competition policy, said yesterday.

In a speech outlining his proposals to liberalize banking in the run-up to 1992, he said it was not enough to secure free access for banks and mortgage credit institutions to market and advertise their services throughout Europe; nor to ensure adequate protection of savers and depositors.

"Our proposal for a Second Banking Co-ordination Directive has been developed to implement the principles of home country control and a basic harmonization of supervisory standards.

"As such, it forms the cornerstone of the Commission efforts to create a single European market in the banking sector."

Sir Leon said the principles of home-country supervision reflected a clear trend of increasing contact between the national supervisory authorities.

Branches of EC banks and other credit organizations which were freed from the requirements of separate authorization, endowment capital and the need to provide branch accounts "will be subject to prudent supervision only by the authorities in their parent's home country."

At present the supervision of liquidity and market risk relating to open positions in tradeable securities was an exception to this general rule. But the central theme was that home supervisors "retain primary responsibility for the European-wide activities of banks which they have authorized." The system would be operated by the individual banking supervisors in the member states.

Irish losses hit profits at GRE

By Our City Staff

Guardian Royal Exchange, the composite insurance group, raised its interim dividend 14.3 per cent to 4p despite a drop in pre-tax profits from £117.7 million to £100.1 million in the first half.

Profits would have been ahead but for a £22.5 million underwriting loss on premium income of just £35 million in the Irish Republic, after an unexplained 50 per cent rise in motor claims in some areas.

Mr Sid Hopkins, GRE's deputy chief executive, said such sudden changes sometimes happened and a 9 per cent rise in premiums had been made.

Pioneering link sets pace in water privatization

Southern taps into waste with French

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

Southern Water, which became a public limited company at midnight, has already made a pioneering move to expand its operations into waste collection and disposal in collaboration with a French rival. The deal was the first commercial celebration of vesting day, which today marks the formal change of status of the 10 water authorities on their way to privatization in November.

At midnight, their water and sewerage businesses, under new licences, were transferred to new companies - subsidiaries of the 10 ples - with more freedom to enter new businesses. The authorities' river control functions and assets, including the Thames Barrier, were transferred to the new National Rivers Authority, and the office of the Director General of Water Services opened.

Southern is forming a joint company with Saur, a subsidiary of Bouygues, the French construction group. Saur controls three adjoining statutory water companies in the middle of the former Southern Water Authority's area, over which the two fought a strenuous takeover battle.

In France, Saur is a leading domestic and industrial waste contractor for local authorities and, with Southern, aims to exploit Southern's reputation with local authorities in its area to apply for local waste disposal contracts.

Mr William Courtney, chairman of Southern, said waste disposal was a basic business with continuing demand like water. "It is highly competitive and we know it will be tough," he said. The two may also expand into street cleaning.

Although Saur won the bid battle for the statutory water companies, Southern took a 25 per cent stake in the Eastbourne, Mid Sussex and West Kent companies and a holding in a company controlled by Générale des Eaux, of France. Its votes could block the conversion of the statutory companies to plc status, which is essential if they are to enter new businesses.

The French companies paid what were considered high prices for some acquisitions, partly because they wanted to use them as bases to offer new services to local authorities, which are under pressure from new legislation to contract services such as waste disposal privately.

The Southern deal with Saur could also cut potential competition. It may be a pointer to further deals between French water companies and the water service ples. Générale, which would like to forge a link with a water authority, has a strong presence in the Thames Water area.

For the latest news and views on the Hoyle bid for B.A.T Industries, from Michael Butt, Chairman of Eagle Star.

Call free. Any time.

0800 444 930

B.A.T. LINE

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bond shares tumble to lowest in decade

Shares in Mr Alan Bond's embattled Bond Corporation sank to their lowest this decade amid growing concern over its financial position. The company's shares fell 10p to 220p, a low of 1989, after a political dispute over the proposed \$1.2 billion plant, which has been the subject of a Supreme Court writ.

Bond Corp shares slipped 6 cents to close at 47 cents after a 12 month low of 45 cents - against levels of more than \$22 in 1980. Bond Corp returned to the offensive against its former long-time ally, the West Australian Government, accusing it of attempting to renege on secret legal commitments to build the petro-chemical plant. It followed the attack with a Supreme Court writ.

Lawrie falls to £2.67m

Lawrie Group, the tea and coffee plantation concern, has reported a drop in profits for the fourth year running. Pre-tax profits for 1988 fell to £2.67 million from £3.4 million in 1987. The dividend is held at 45p. Lawrie also made an extraordinary profit of £24,000 from the sale of a fixed asset.

Cairn ahead to £643,616

Cairn Energy, the oil and gas group which floated on the USM last December, has increased pre-tax profits from £119,965 to £643,616 on turnover up from £146,339 to £1.5 million for the six months to June, compared with the six months to December 1988. Earnings per share rose from 1.7p to 4.5p. There is no dividend.

Parambe slips to £18m

Parambe, the investment company with an art dealing business, turned in profits after interest of £18.5 million for the first half of the year, against £49.7 million in the same period last year. The performance reflects a loss on the company's securities dealing side and reduced profits from the art business.

But Parambe says this trend does not mean the full year will show a similar decline. Shareholders will benefit from an interim dividend of 0.5p, unchanged from that paid for the period last time, while the net asset value has risen from 68.4p to 77.3p.

Brooke to buy Expedier in Rockingham agreed bid

Brooke Tool Engineering Expedier Leisure, the sports hospitality group, yesterday made an agreed £12.4 million share or cash offer for Expedier, which owns the Old Times Furnishing group. Expedier shares rose 41p to 149p, above the 147 1/2p cash terms from the year to end-September. In the year to end-July Rockingham made £351,000 before tax, up 53 per cent.

Setback at Bestwood

Bestwood, the financial services and housebuilding mini-conglomerate presently being investigated by the Department of Trade and Industry, reports a fall in pre-tax profits from £1.2 million to £687,000 for the six months to end-June. Earnings per share fell from 2.2p to 1.2p and the interim dividend has been passed.

The interim last time was 0.5p but there was no final. Mr Jim Furlong, the company's third chairman since the stock market crash in October 1987 plunged it into severe losses, blamed the profit fall on the downturn in the housing market and the company's "domestic problems."

Cadbury concentrates profits

Cadbury Schweppes made more in the past half year than in all of 1988. That is one measure of its transformation since Dominic Cadbury and his board decided to get tough. In the words of one Cadbury watcher, they stopped trying to be like Reckitt & Coleman.

The ensuing mayhem was tough for shareholders as first the US management was shaken up, then the food side, health and hygiene businesses were sold. The subsequent concentration on confectionery and soft drinks is delivering results.

The half-year profits of £94.9 million, up 16.2 per cent, were at the top of expectations, despite adverse factors. The hot weather, which boosted the British soft drinks side by 60 per cent, also held back confectionery sales.

But despite this, there was an underlying improvement of more than 19 per cent in half-year earnings, and the heavy capital expenditure of past years is being stepped up rather than eased back.

The Crush acquisition from Procter & Gamble will underpin Cadbury's place as number three in the global soft drinks market.

Assuming £250 million pre-tax this year, the shares are worth 350p to 375p, taking a line through the ratings of the market leaders Hershey, PepsiCo and Coca-Cola. They stand at 412p on a hefty premium to the British market, sporting a 16 1/2 times p/e ratio.

But Britain is one of the last places where multinational shoppers can find acquisitions bringing worthwhile add-on market share. The memory of fancy prices paid for Rowntree and the BSN purchase of RJR Nabisco's European interests are burned into the minds of institutional investors. So, despite the bid froth in the present price, the downside is limited. Cadbury is now a top-class company and shareholders will receive their dividends sooner or later.

GRE

Irish accident figures cost Guardian Royal Exchange £22.5 million in underwriting losses on Irish premium income of £35 million in the first half of this year as motor claims in the Dublin area rose by about half in 18 months. That £21 million downturn at the pre-tax level robbed Mr Peter Dugdale, the chief executive, of what might have been a good performance by the most compact and safely positioned composite.

Group pre-tax profits fell 10 per cent to £100 million on an 18 per cent rise in premium income to £976 million, whereas profits might otherwise have risen by 8 per cent. Earnings per share dropped from 8.7p to 7.2p. The British side, which accounts for 41 per cent of non-life premiums, raised pre-tax profits from £7.2 million to £76.2 million despite a small downturn in



Heavy losses in the Irish market: GRE's Peter Dugdale

life profits to £14 million from last year's exceptional level.

About £9 million of the Irish loss came from back provisions for 1988. Private motor premiums were raised in February and a 30 per cent rise in commercial rates is planned for October, so the Irish problem should shrink. Earnings for the full year are bound to be lower however, suggesting the shares will sell at about 13 times earnings.

The main appeal lies in the dividend, up 14.3 per cent at the interim stage, thanks partly to rounding. On 11.25p for the year, they yield 6.8 per cent.

The British market is on the downturn, even in the personal business favoured by GRE. But the shares remain a sound holding with long-term bid speculation in for nothing.

Pentland

In 1981 Mr Stephen Rubin, chairman of Pentland Group and 55 per cent shareholder, clinched the sort of deal most businessmen only dream of. He bought 55 per cent of Reebok, the US sports shoe business, for \$77,500 (£50,000 at today's exchange rate).

That business is now worth £336 million or 93p per Pent-

land share, and it contributed 75 per cent of Pentland's £41.9 million pre-tax profit for the six months to June. The result was 15 per cent up on last year and Reebok's contribution rose 12 per cent.

Turnover dropped from £327.4 million to £316.4 million. Earnings per share rose 16 per cent to 9.33p and shareholders' funds increased by 25 per cent to £227 million. Mr Rubin's problem is what to do for an encore. The market is becoming increasingly impatient and worried that Reebok's rapid growth is slowing. Pentland's failed takeover of Parker Pen last year has only served to underline the difficulties the group faces in acquiring another strong brand with growth potential.

The market's disillusionment with Pentland is reflected in the share price, down from 260p before the 1987 crash to 89p yesterday. But the situation may be about to change. Two months ago Pentland restructured its business with a reverse takeover of Bertrams Investment Trust. That process will be completed by October 6, when Pentland will seek purchases.

Mr Rubin is unlikely to pull off another Reebok, but investors willing to gamble on Pentland revitalizing its business, should consider buying. The shares, at 89p, up 6p, are trading on a prospective p/e of 7.3. Assuming earnings of 12.1p in the full year, they look cheap.

Sharpe in warning after 97% advance

Sharpe & Fisher, the Cheltenham building supplies group, gave warning yesterday that high interest rates and the housing market slump would hit its building supplies division in the second half.

The group's pre-tax profits jumped 97.5 per cent to £2.27 million in the six months to end-June, said the fall in profits would be offset by at least £1.4 million of rental income. Last year rental income was £904,000.

Mr David Newcombe, finance director, said he saw no reason why Sharpe could not improve on last year's pre-tax profits of £2.6 million.

The interim is 50 per cent up at 1.5p and a total of not less than 4p is intended for the full year.

IFS expansion

Interface Flooring Systems of the US is to double the size of its carpet tiles operation at Craigavon, Co. Armagh, in a £9.4 million expansion backed by the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board. Annual output will rise 76 per cent to 3.2 million sq m, creating 87 jobs.

Astra order

Astra Holdings has won a further £17 million (£10.8 million) order from the US Defence Department, taking total orders in recent weeks to \$55 million.

Black advance

A&C Black raised pre-tax profits 4 per cent to £366,000 for the six months to end-June. Sales were £2.97 million compared to £2.82 million. The dividend is 4.25p (4.0p).

Gardner ahead

DC Gardner Group lifted pre-tax profits from £331,000 to £381,000 in the six months to end-June. The interim stays at 1.1p.

Joint bid

Waterford Foods has made a joint £46.5 million offer with Express Dairy for PTL Express, a Dublin subsidiary of Grand Metropolitan.

English jumps

English & Overseas Properties doubled pre-tax profits to £1 million in the first half. Its first interim is 2p.

Insider inquiry in Tokyo bank link

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Japan is facing the first real test of the insider trading laws brought in last April, with news that the Tokyo Stock Exchange is investigating the merger of two top commercial banks for possible breaches of insider dealing rules. The deal was made public on Tuesday.

Taiyo Kobe Bank, whose agreed merger with Mitsui Bank will create the world's second biggest bank, has admitted it instructed its 363 branch managers across Japan in June to advise their customers to buy the bank's shares. At the time, Taiyo Kobe was deep in negotiations with Mitsui Bank.

Taiyo Kobe says the action

Caradon soars on bid hopes

By George Sivel

Shares in Caradon, the Twyford bathrooms and Evercree double glazing group, soared 100p to 455p yesterday after the company revealed an approach which could lead to a takeover bid.

At 455p a share, Caradon, of Surrey, is worth £280 million. The news surprised the market, which had thought the group might launch a bid of its own.

Caradon was floated in June 1987 at 250p a share in an offer 38 times oversubscribed. At 455p a share, Caradon stands on a multiple of 12.3 times last year's earnings, against a prospective multiple of 10.7.

US data underpin IMF confidence

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Lower inflation and a narrowing of the trade gap in the US have reassured finance ministers, who will assemble in three weeks' time for the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, about prospects for the world economy.

Their confidence is underpinned by the draft version of the twice-yearly World Economic Outlook, produced by the IMF staff economists, which says the risk of a serious acceleration in inflation has diminished.

It also says growth is likely to be a little lower than projected in its last forecast in April, but this week's upward

revision in estimates of US GNP for the second quarter is likely to raise the projections slightly when the final figures are presented at the meetings.

In April, the IMF predicted a fall from 4.1 per cent growth in the industrialized countries last year to 3.3 per cent this year and 3.2 per cent next. Its final forecasts for the meetings are expected to be little different.

The fall in US inflation and trade deficit has convinced ministers that their policies of exchange rate stability and policy co-ordination are on the right lines. There is therefore unlikely to be any fundamental change at the meetings.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

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Plessey in-flight computer could be a 'money spinner'

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Plessey, the electronics group, is holding talks with six international airlines, which could bring a widespread launch of a computer-based inflight telephone and entertainment centre for passengers.

The system, connected by a fibre optic network to every passenger with a liquid crystal colour television display, headset and keyboard, could be a money spinner, says Mr Philip Parker, Plessey's director of corporate development.

Among airline manufacturers, Boeing is "very enthusiastic" about the system, in which Plessey claims a technological lead. But airlines are the potential customers and 40 are showing an interest.

More than one leading airline is expected to be signed up this year, with the system starting to go into aircraft next year, said Mr Parker.

Initial evaluation is to be done with Paramount, the small Bristol charter airline. The Spanish-based Spanair is close to taking up the system.

Mr Michael Whiteman, managing director of Plessey Avionics, said there is "a potential for a bonanza" in the system. Passengers would not only be able to choose entertainment from a video library, including games, but make global telephone calls, send messages by facsimile, go mail-order shopping for delivery at home or book ahead for hotels and transport.

Installation, at about £1.5



Preparing for take-off: Philip Parker of Plessey keys into the computer system yesterday

million an aircraft, would involve no capital cost to airlines and profits would be shared. The system, a spin-off from military technology, grew from an idea of a company called Candestair. It, with Plessey as supplier of the hardware, would start making profits in three to four years, according to estimates.

It could be used to monitor an aircraft's systems from engine efficiency to stock control.

Total annual revenues by 1995 are being put at a possible £1.5 billion. It is envisaged that any aircraft carrying more than 100 passengers, and particularly those on longer routes, would be the logical users. That would indicate 3 million passenger users a year, likely to be spending £20 a head on one estimate, although Plessey is working on half that amount.

Slough Estates rises to £44.4m

By Neil Bennett

Resilient demand for industrial property helped Slough Estates to pre-tax profits of £44.4 million for the half year to end-June, up 30 per cent.

Earnings per share climbed 20 per cent to 10.6p. The interim dividend is 3.8p (4.2p).

Mr Graeme Elliot, the vice-chairman, said that industrial rents in the company had increased by an average of 25 per cent since last year.

They have reached as high as £10 per square foot on the Slough Trading Estate, which is the company's main property.

Profits received a £3 million boost from the issue of convertible bonds last May.

Slough does not publish a half-year net asset value, but City analysts are forecasting as much as 48.5p per share by the end of the year, compared with 38.2p in 1988.

Investment income from the group's 29 million square feet of property increased by 18 per cent to £43.4 million.

Trading profits were £6.6 million, up from £4.9 million. Much of this came from the sale of an industrial site near Heathrow Airport.

Bredero Properties, Slough's 52 per cent subsidiary, contributed £2.4 million of the trading income, a rise of £600,000.

Mr Elliot said the company did not expect to equal the trading performance in the second half.

The company however remains confident about the industrial property market for the next nine months.

Industrial property still accounts for 80 per cent of the group's business.

Slough's largest retail development, the Howard Centre in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, has been pre-let to Marks and Spencer.

A fifth of Slough's profit now comes from abroad. During the half, Slough sold 136,000 square feet in Belgium, and started developing a 23-acre industrial park near Vancouver, Canada. The first 24,000 square foot has been pre-let to Motorola.

Slough's shares have recently been marked up on reports that the company was being valued by a North American buyer which was considering a bid.

A spokesman said no possible predators had been discovered on the register.

Right result for Borrie for wrong reasons

The reference of the bids by both Blue Circle and Yale & Valor for Myson to the Monopolies Commission achieves a desirable end by indirect and probably unintended means.

Sir Gordon Borrie and successive ministers at the Department of Trade and Industry have refused to put takeover situations on ice when one bidder is referred to the Commission. In terms of competition policy, there may be some logic to this, not least because Sir Gordon regards a reference as implying *prima facie* disapproval. But it creates uncertainty and false situations in the stock market.

In the Myson case, Yale had extended a lower offer which would probably have won if only Blue Circle had been referred. Most investors would probably prefer to wait for the conclusion of an MMC inquiry, which now takes three months instead of six, so that they can make a fully informed judgement on the best price available.

It is not as if investors could make any safe prediction on the outcome of MMC inquiries, which are much more random than the recommendations of the OFT. The latest MMC report, which unconditionally cleared Glynwed's acquisition of JB & S Lees, illustrates the MMC's odd approach to market share, which was also evident in early reports on takeovers involving the cheque book and scaffolding markets.

The MMC is prone to conclude that there will be some diminution of competition and few benefits, then pass a merger anyway, which sits ill with the Government's competition policy. In the latest case, Glynwed's share of the British supply of hardened and tempered steel strip, a material used for hand saws, blades and springs, rose from 53 per cent to 64 per cent. The MMC expressed concern but decided that there was potential competition either from imported steel or finished products.

The latter would be of little comfort to British tool and spring manufacturers, who are already hard-pressed.

Plessey, after nine months of a takeover threat, is within a week of what could be a decisive first closing date for the renewed £2 billion bid from the General Electric Company (GEC) and Siemens. And reports from the front indicate that Plessey's uphill battle is still being waged with a will by Mr Stephen Walls, the managing director, and his team.

Plessey wheeled out some goodies yesterday from its technology bank as yet another defensive salvo, arguing that future value locked up there and waiting to be released had as potent a value as a brand to consumer goods companies.

But the most crucial work has been getting round 55 institutional shareholders, some as far distant as Scotland, where Mr Walls led a whirlwind tour of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee on Tuesday. About 30 institutions have so far received the message that not selling out this time could ensure a higher value in the future.

Mr Walls has been encouraged by what he has found. He believes there is now "a very clear understanding that there is a very strong counter argument against the shotgun take-it-or-leave-it approach" of the final GEC-Siemens bid.

Several nuggets of information have emerged as the Walls team has gone round waking up fund managers to the idea that Plessey is far from dead. Negotiations to strike an alliance with a foreign semiconductor producer linking with Plessey's custom-built chips can be completed only when the bid battle is decided. In Japan, Sony and Matsushita are two potential allies and there have also been talks with some American producers.

The lure for the foreigners is a European involvement in the approaching single market. But Plessey semiconductor would remain under Plessey's management control.

In aerospace work Plessey has links with Boeing and Airbus Industrie but it is looking for more development. To achieve this talks have been going on for some time with two unnamed US aerospace companies, which are probably Boeing and McDonnell Douglas.

Appleyard boosted by £18m Skelly deal

By Neil Bennett

Appleyard Group, the motor dealer, is to become the largest Volkswagen dealer in Britain, after the £18.3 million acquisition of Ian Skelly, the Volkswagen Audi franchise holder for Scotland and the North of England.

It is paying for the company with a vendor placing of 12.4 million shares at 148p each, to be offered to shareholders in a 100-for-30 issue.

Appleyard made pre-tax profits of £5.72 million, up 39 per cent, on sales of £204 million, up 43 per cent, in the six months to end-June. The company is lifting its interim dividend 18 per cent to 2.6p.

However, earnings remained static at 10.9p a share due to a rise in the tax charge to 35 per cent (24 per cent).

The figures include a first-time contribution of £700,000 from Minorities, the motor dealer chain bought last year.

With sites in Liverpool, Manchester and the Glasgow area, Ian Skelly sold 13,500 cars last year and holds about 4 per cent of the national market of Volkswagen and Audi cars. Last year, it made a pre-tax profit of £2.2 million on sales of £64.2 million.

The Manchester site has continued to lose money. Skelly comes with £13.5 million in debt, which will raise Appleyard's debt to 80 per cent of shareholders' funds.

French bid agreed at Gordon Russell

By Our City Staff

Gordon Russell, the office furniture manufacturer, has agreed to a £62.1 million all-cash bid from Steelcase Strafor, a French furniture manufacturer.

Steelcase is offering 467.5p a share for the company, 55 per cent above its previous market price. There is a loan note alternative. The company made the deal certain yesterday by buying 1.54 million Gordon Russell shares in the market, bringing its stake to 16.1 per cent. With acceptances from the Russell board, this gives them control over 56.5 per cent of the company.

Russell's interim results to end-June, released yesterday, showed a disappointing 10 per cent fall in earnings per share to 10p. Pre-tax profits rose 23 per cent to £2.04 million. The dividend is 2.6p, from 2.4p.

Under the deal, the stakes owned by Mr Jeremy Simpson and Mr Chester Wedgewood, Russell's chairman and chief executive who built the company up from a small office chair manufacturer, are worth £13.3 million and £8.33 million respectively.

Mr Wedgewood said: "I'm not pleased, I'm delighted. It's not the money; we are released from shareholder pressure, to build for the long term and do the things we know best."

Steelcase Strafor is a joint venture between Steelcase Inc of the US, the world largest office furniture maker, and Financière Strafor, the French holding company. Last year, it had sales of 1.95 billion French francs (£185 million).

"Their technical knowledge is light years ahead of ours, while our joinery skills are light years ahead of theirs", said Mr Wedgewood.

Loss grows to £3.5m at Parrish

By Gillian Bowditch

Parrish, the stockbroking firm, finally announced yesterday its results for the year to January after pressure from the Stock Exchange and The Securities Association.

The results - a month late - show a £3.5 million pre-tax loss (£1.5 million loss last year).

Figures for the year to January show turnover down from £9.6 million to £7.7 million. The loss per share for the year doubled to 42.8p.

There is no final dividend.

Parrish also published its interim figures for the six months to July. These show a £447,000 pre-tax loss (£2.1 million loss).

Turnover was almost static at £4 million. An exceptional item of £307,000 led to the pre-tax loss. The loss per share fell from 26.6p to 5.3p. There is no interim dividend.

Lilley to discuss bid options

By Melinda Wittstock

Directors of FIC Lilley, the Scottish construction group, will meet this weekend to decide whether to increase their hostile £124 million all-paper bid for rival Tilbury Group, or sweeten it with a cash alternative.

Mr Bob Rankin, Lilley chief executive, yesterday refused to rule out either option, and said a decision would be reached by next Friday, the group's last chance to increase its 610p offer, which many analysts regard as being too low to succeed.

"There's no doubt Lilley will have to increase its offer," said Mr Andrew Metcalf, a Warburg construction analyst.

"Most of the large institutional shareholders in Tilbury say they won't accept anything less than 780p, but I don't think Lilley will increase their offer to this level."

Lilley, meanwhile, announced a 171 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £8.2 million for the six months to end-June and forecast a 130 per cent full-year rise to £18 million.

Mr Rankin, who expects full-year earnings to climb 23 per cent to 9.22p, with 25 per cent compound growth thereafter, said profits would be aided by business won from the privatized water industry. Tunnelling contracts worth about £5 million would be announced next week.

The bid closes on September 22.

Batmobile comes to rescue

Sir James Goldsmith, never slow to seize an opportunity to play to the gallery, and now in hot pursuit of Bat with his Hovlake vehicle, is poised for a fresh attack on the Bat management and its alleged frustrating tactics to stop Hovlake. As a taster, he told yesterday's meeting of his Anglo Group that at the last count, Bat had employed 17 legal firms, 11 lobbying firms, six public relations firms and one detective agency. "Yes, we have also employed various firms - but no detective agency," he added. He then thanked Bat, which that morning had held its own legal briefing session for analysts and the Press at its Victoria headquarters, for providing a "Batmobile" to ferry those who wanted to rush from Victoria to Hambro's head-office in Tower Hill in time for Hovlake's meeting at noon. "Kind of them to ensure that Anglo shareholders were not disenfranchised," he quipped. I wonder if he was aware, however, that the "Batbus", as Bat preferred to call it, stopped at the Bank of England en route. Presumably to pick up Robin.

● Australians have been told to tighten their belts because of an economic crisis. It would seem that the message is getting through to at least some. The Royal Pacific Hotel in Sydney is displaying a board outside its bar for a "Happy Half Hour."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY Exchange names trail

Still more reminiscences about those awful old nicknames given to jobbers and brokers in the days when the Stock Exchange had a floor. Alf Franklin, aged 73, a one-time member of the Stock Exchange Council, as well as being managing director of the jobbing firm Berger & Goss-

Learning at Lloyd's

As much of the City continues to compete for an ever more qualified workforce - seeking out Oxbridge graduates, solicitors, barristers, chartered accountants and MBAs - it will perhaps be a little alarming for some to discover that Lloyd's of London remains unimpressed by such academic prowess. One firm of Lloyd's underwriters has advertised for an underwriter's assistant to work in its box at Lloyd's, describing the job as an opportunity for a school-leaver "with GCSE passes in maths and English, preferably with computer terminal user awareness." One ex-Lloyd's member, who describes Lloyd's as "the intellectual dustbin of the Square Mile," tells me: "In the wake of the Howden, Outwaite, Computer Leasing and PCW débâcles, I find it hard to comprehend how Lloyd's 'names' can pledge their unlimited liability into the hands of any institution that draws its financial decision makers from such esteemed academic circles!"

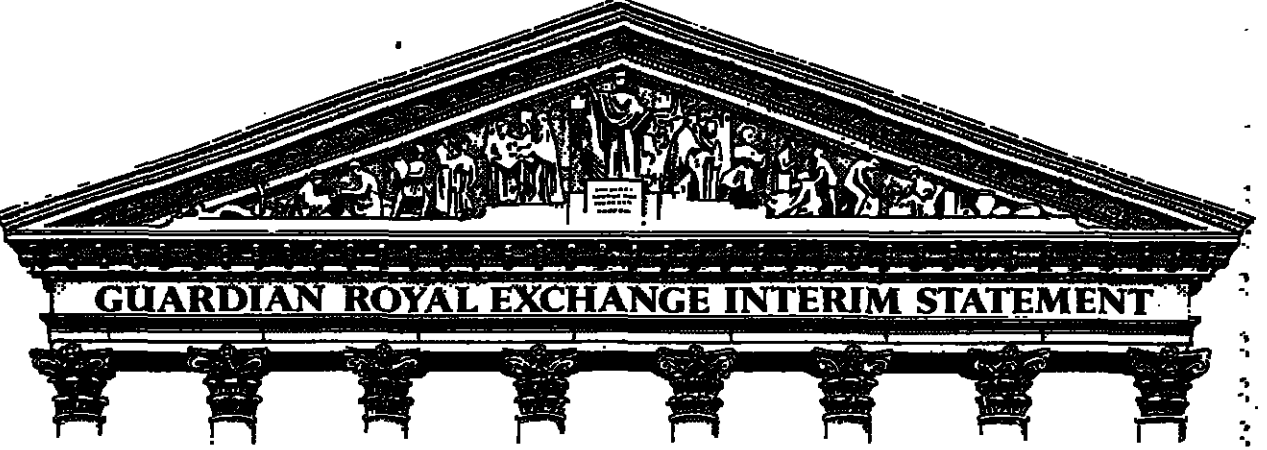
Border cash

City Diary inveighed last month against those companies in mainland Britain which seem unable to grasp the fact that Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom and should thus be treated in domestic market terms. Now, an enterprise that ought to know better has also twisted the Irish border round its neck and made the usual mistake in reverse. According to American Express, in its Company Cardmember Guide, Dublin is one of the major regional cities in the UK.

Snake bite

The Securities Association's new computer system to keep tabs on securities and bond traders is called Cobra. Capture of Bond Reports and Analysis. "I don't want anyone to think it's going to come out of a box and attack defenceless Eurobond dealers," said John Young, TSA chief executive. But computer

whizz Lindsay Thomas, of the association's enforcement division, did admit that he came up with the name first and then the title. "I spent a lot of time coming up with initials," he sighed. Cobra will be pulling in share dealing information from Segal, Trax, Euclid and others. Enough initials for a decent game of Scrabble.



A Good Half-Year

- ★ Pre-tax Profit £100.1m
- ★ Investment Income up 24%
- ★ Shareholders' Funds up 15%
- ★ Interim Dividend up 14%

Summary of Estimated Results for the half year ended 30th June 1989

	First 6 months 1989 (unaudited) £m	First 6 months 1988 (unaudited) £m	Year 1988* (audited) £m
Premiums - short-term business	976.0	828.5	1,578.1
Investment income	134.8	108.4	225.5
Underwriting results - short-term business	(48.7)	(11.5)	(16.4)
long-term business	14.0	14.8	30.0
Profit before taxation	100.1	111.7	239.1
Taxation and minorities	39.4	41.7	82.4
Profit attributable to shareholders	60.7	70.0	156.7
Earnings per share	7.2p	8.7p	19.4p
Dividend per share	4.0p	3.5p	10.0p
Shareholders' funds	£1,530.3m	£1,263.6m	£1,330.8m

Results by Group Companies (before taxation)						
	First 6 months 1989			First 6 months 1988		
	Net Underwriting Premiums	Investment Income	Investment Income	Net Underwriting Premiums	Investment Income	Investment Income
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Australia	43.9	(7.8)	9.0	39.3	(4.1)	7.8
Canada	92.6	(2.2)	11.2	73.9	(1.1)	8.8
Germany	148.1	(6.6)	14.6	134.1	(6.7)	13.7
U.K.	403.7	(10.9)	64.2	343.4	10.7	48.5
U.S.A.	85.1	(2.4)	9.3	66.0	(1.1)	7.5
Misc.	202.6	(28.8)	26.5	171.8	(9.2)	22.1
	<u>976.0</u>	<u>(48.7)</u>	<u>134.8</u>	<u>828.5</u>	<u>(11.5)</u>	<u>108.4</u>

The Interim Statement 1989 is being posted to ordinary shareholders and an Interim Statement for Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Group is being posted to preference shareholders and unsecured loan stockholders of Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance plc.

Ordinary shareholders will have the opportunity to take fully paid ordinary shares in the Company in lieu of cash for the interim dividend payable on 30th January 1990.

*Extracted from the Company's Accounts for the year 1988 which received an unqualified Auditor's Report and which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.



The importance of being Ernst. And Young.

Today, Ernst & Whinney and Arthur Young become *Ernst & Young*: a new force in global business and financial advice.

Yet what's important is not who we are. Or what we are. But what we can do. And what we can do is offer our clients, large and small, the remarkable breadth of expertise and depth of service of the skilled staff, and dedicated partners of Ernst & Young, in over 100 countries around the world and 34 towns and cities in the United Kingdom.

Some say the world of today is driven by sales. We say the world of Ernst & Young is dedicated to professional service.

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Global and Dedicated.

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Symbol	Company Name	Price	Change	Volume	Market Cap	PE Ratio	Dividend Yield	52 Week High	52 Week Low
AL	Aluminum Co. of America	45.12	+0.15	1,200,000	\$1.2B	15.2	2.5%	50.00	35.00
AM	Amgen Inc.	120.50	-1.20	800,000	\$1.5B	22.1	1.8%	130.00	100.00
AP	Applied Materials	180.25	+2.50	600,000	\$1.8B	18.5	3.0%	190.00	150.00
AV	Avaya Inc.	75.80	-0.50	900,000	\$1.1B	12.3	4.0%	80.00	60.00
B	Berkshire Hathaway	285.00	+3.00	1,500,000	\$3.5B	10.5	5.0%	300.00	250.00
BA	Boeing Co.	110.10	+1.00	1,100,000	\$1.3B	14.8	2.0%	120.00	90.00
BB	Baxter International	60.50	-0.20	700,000	\$1.0B	16.7	1.5%	65.00	50.00
BC	Becton Dickinson	95.20	+0.80	800,000	\$1.2B	19.3	2.8%	100.00	80.00
BD	BioGen Inc.	150.00	-2.00	600,000	\$1.4B	25.0	1.0%	160.00	130.00
BE	Bell Canada	40.00	+0.10	1,300,000	\$1.0B	11.0	3.5%	42.00	35.00
BF	Baxter International	60.50	-0.20	700,000	\$1.0B	16.7	1.5%	65.00	50.00
BG	Bunge Limited	55.00	+0.50	900,000	\$1.1B	13.5	2.0%	60.00	45.00
BH	Berkshire Hathaway	285.00	+3.00	1,500,000	\$3.5B	10.5	5.0%	300.00	250.00
BI	BioGen Inc.	150.00	-2.00	600,000	\$1.4B	25.0	1.0%	160.00	130.00
BJ	Baxter International	60.50	-0.20	700,000	\$1.0B	16.7	1.5%	65.00	50.00
BK	Bank of America	30.00	+0.10	1,400,000	\$1.5B	10.0	3.0%	32.00	25.00
BL	Bell Canada	40.00	+0.10	1,300,000	\$1.0B	11.0	3.5%	42.00	35.00
BM	Berkshire Hathaway	285.00	+3.00	1,500,000	\$3.5B	10.5	5.0%	300.00	250.00
BN	BioGen Inc.	150.00	-2.00	600,000	\$1.4B	25.0	1.0%	160.00	130.00
BO	Boeing Co.	110.10	+1.00	1,100,000	\$1.3B	14.8	2.0%	120.00	90.00
BP	Becton Dickinson	95.20	+0.80	800,000	\$1.2B	19.3	2.8%	100.00	80.00
BQ	Baxter International	60.50	-0.20	700,000	\$1.0B	16.7	1.5%	65.00	50.00
BR	Berkshire Hathaway	285.00	+3.00	1,500,000	\$3.5B	10.5	5.0%	300.00	250.00
BS	BioGen Inc.	150.00	-2.00	600,000	\$1.4B	25.0	1.0%	160.00	130.00
BT	Bell Canada	40.00	+0.10	1,300,000	\$1.0B	11.0	3.5%	42.00	35.00
BV	Baxter International	60.50	-0.20	700,000	\$1.0B	16.7	1.5%	65.00	50.00
BW	Berkshire Hathaway	285.00	+3.00	1,500,000	\$3.5B	10.5	5.0%	300.00	250.00
BX	BioGen Inc.	150.00	-2.00	600,000	\$1.4B	25.0	1.0%	160.00	130.00
BY	Bell Canada	40.00	+0.10	1,300,000	\$1.0B	11.0	3.5%	42.00	35.00
BZ	Baxter International	60.50	-0.20	700,000	\$1.0B	16.7	1.5%	65.00	50.00
CA	Aluminum Co. of America	45.12	+0.15	1,200,000	\$1.2B	15.2	2.5%	50.00	35.00
CB	Becton Dickinson	95.20	+0.80	800,000	\$1.2B	19.3	2.8%	100.00	80.00
CC	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CD	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CE	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CF	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CG	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CH	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CI	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CJ	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CK	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CL	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CM	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CN	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CO	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CP	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CQ	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CR	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CS	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CT	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CU	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CV	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CW	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CX	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CY	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
CZ	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
DA	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
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DU	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
DV	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
DW	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
DX	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
DY	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
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EA	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
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EH	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
EI	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
EJ	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
EK	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
EL	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
EM	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
EN	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
EO	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
EP	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
EQ	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
ER	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
ES	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
ET	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
EU	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
EV	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
EW	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
EX	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
EY	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
EZ	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FA	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FB	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FC	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FD	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FE	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FF	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FG	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FH	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FI	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FJ	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FK	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FL	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FM	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FN	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FO	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FP	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FQ	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FR	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.00	70.00
FS	Cummins Inc.	80.00	+0.50	1,000,000	\$1.1B	12.0	2.0%	85.	

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1990-91		1991-92		1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25		2025-26		2026-27		2027-28		2028-29		2029-30		2030-31		2031-32		2032-33		2033-34		2034-35		2035-36		2036-37		2037-38		2038-39		2039-40		2040-41		2041-42		2042-43		2043-44		2044-45		2045-46		2046-47		2047-48		2048-49		2049-50		2050-51		2051-52		2052-53		2053-54		2054-55		2055-56		2056-57		2057-58		2058-59		2059-60		2060-61		2061-62		2062-63		2063-64		2064-65		2065-66		2066-67		2067-68		2068-69		2069-70		2070-71		2071-72		2072-73		2073-74		2074-75		2075-76		2076-77		2077-78		2078-79		2079-80		2080-81		2081-82		2082-83		2083-84		2084-85		2085-86		2086-87		2087-88		2088-89		2089-90		2090-91		2091-92		2092-93		2093-94		2094-95		2095-96		2096-97		2097-98		2098-99		2099-00		2100-01		2101-02		2102-03		2103-04		2104-05		2105-06		2106-07		2107-08		2108-09		2109-10		2110-11		2111-12		2112-13		2113-14		2114-15		2115-16		2116-17		2117-18		2118-19		2119-20		2120-21		2121-22		2122-23		2123-24		2124-25		2
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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 91.5 (day's range 91.3-91.5).

MARKET RATES FOR AUGUST 31			
Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New York	1,566.1-1,574.0	1,570.0-1,574.0	1,570.0-1,574.0
Monro	1,565.0-1,574.0	1,565.0-1,574.0	1,565.0-1,574.0
Amsterdam	1,495.0-1,478.0	1,478.0-1,481.0	1,478.0-1,481.0
London	1,495.0-1,478.0	1,478.0-1,481.0	1,478.0-1,481.0
Copenhagen	1,181.0-1,197.0	1,181.0-1,197.0	1,181.0-1,197.0
Frankfurt	1,181.0-1,197.0	1,181.0-1,197.0	1,181.0-1,197.0
Paris	1,181.0-1,197.0	1,181.0-1,197.0	1,181.0-1,197.0
Madrid	1,181.0-1,197.0	1,181.0-1,197.0	1,181.0-1,197.0
Lisbon	1,181.0-1,197.0	1,181.0-1,197.0	1,181.0-1,197.0
Stockholm	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Oslo	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
London	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Amsterdam	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Paris	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Madrid	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Lisbon	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Stockholm	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Oslo	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
London	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Amsterdam	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Paris	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Madrid	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Lisbon	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Stockholm	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Oslo	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
London	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Amsterdam	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Paris	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Madrid	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Lisbon	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Stockholm	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Oslo	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
London	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Amsterdam	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Paris	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Madrid	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
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Oslo	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
London	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Amsterdam	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
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London	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Amsterdam	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Paris	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Madrid	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Lisbon	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Stockholm	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Oslo	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
London	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Amsterdam	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Paris	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Madrid	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Lisbon	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Stockholm	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Oslo	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
London	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Amsterdam	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Paris	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Madrid	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Lisbon	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Stockholm	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Oslo	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
London	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0
Amsterdam	250.0-267.0	250.0-267.0	

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Singapore	1,9667-1,9577	U.S. (Mark)	7,6126-7,6175	Italy	14045-14055
Malaysia	2,9325-2,9635	Switzerland	1,9595-1,9572	Belgium (Gom)	60,92-60,92
Australia	1,9998-1,9983	United Kingdom	1,9993-1,9993	Portugal	7,6092-7,6095
Netherlands	1,9776-1,9785	Netherlands	2,2053-2,2050	Hong Kong	153,50-154,00
France	6,6130-6,6220	France	144,55-14,6100	Spain	122,25-122,25
Denmark	7,1350-7,1400	Japan	144,55-14,6100	Austria	13,77-13,78

Rates supplied by Bank of America

MONEY MARKET

[illegible]

BULLION:

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

[illegible]

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

مركز احسن الاصل

Barry Pickthall sets the scene from Southampton on the British chances in the Whitbread Round the World yacht race

Smith leads home hopes of matching Blyth

Three British crews set out tomorrow to try to emulate Chay Blyth's victory in the first Whitbread Round the World Race in 1974. It was great pioneering stuff when the Scottish skipper and his team of paratroopers sailed Great Britain II around the world in 144 days.

No British crew has come close to the silverware since. Robin Knox-Johnston's challenge in 1977 came to nought when his yacht, Conqueror, was dismasted during the first leg. A similar fate befell Les Williams's maxi entry, PCF Challenger, during the final stage of the third race in 1982.

In the last race, Simon Le Bon's Drum was the fittest yacht. She lost her keel and capsized during the Fastnet warm-up before the big race and came close to breaking up in a storm off Cape Town.

This time, the storyline could be different. For the first time since 1973, Britain has two highly rated challengers in Lawrie Smith's 80ft maxi, Rothmans, and the similar sized John Forster entry, Saquote British Defender.

Smith and his 12-man crew want for nothing, while the Saquote crew, led by Lt Col Frank Essen, have Britain's military might to support them around the world.

Smith and his team grew in confidence after finishing third in last month's Fastnet race and first among the slop-rigged yachts, proving that they have the speed to win. The question that will remain until the end of the first leg is whether this Humphrey's design has durability. The decision to build the yacht came late, with the result that the crew have been chasing time and have covered fewer than 3,000 training miles against

the 15,000 or more clocked up by their rivals.

The British Defender crew have also been racing against time. But they did squeeze two Atlantic crossings into their frantic schedule.

The third British yacht chasing line honours is Bob Salmon's hastily renamed Liverpool Enterprise, the former South African entry Atlantic Privateer which was dismasted while leading the last race.

Salmon and his band of raw recruits include two graduates from The Times/James Capel Crewsearch scheme last year: Dave Steel, who reached the national finals as a mast-man, and Mike Bradbury. Sadly, their chances of success against the big-money entries are slim. Salmon sets sail tomorrow £100,000 short of his budget.

Vincent Geeke, another Crewsearch mast-man who won the finals has a better chance. A computer expert, his skills have been put to good use aboard Rothmans, where he is navigator.

In the lower divisions, Sarah Davies, another Crewsearch winner, has emerged as first reserve for Tracy Edwards's all-female team on Maiden, one of the pre-race favourites in class D. The Cruiser division, a new class, will be a battle between two veteran British yachts.

Integrity - Chay Blyth's former Great Britain II - now skippered by Andrew Coghill, is undertaking its sixth circumnavigation. It is taking on John Chisholm's larger Creighton's Naturally, which became the second boat to be equipped with the latest man-overboard location system developed by The Times/RORC Safety at Sea committee.



Calm before a long, hard cruise: Round the World competitors make final adjustments on their boats before setting off into the unknown tomorrow from the serene waters of Southampton

FULL GUIDE TO WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD BOATS AND CREWS

Division A

Fisher and Paykel

(New Zealand)
Skipper: Bruce Farr
Navigator: John Jourdane
Watch leader: Murray Ross
Crew: 17
Designer: Bruce Farr
Length: 62ft (18.9m)
Displacement: 70,400lb (31,870kg)
Rating: 70ft
Launch date: 1988
Rig: Masthead ketch
Construction: Carbon/Kevlar/epoxy composite
Sponsor: Fisher and Paykel
Budget: £3 million
The 6-4 favourite, Fisher and Paykel has covered more than 15,000 miles during race trials, scoring a runaway victory over NCB Ireland in the recent Newport-Cork transatlantic race. This will be the first time since Whitbread race, and the skipper has added a further 450sq ft of downwind sail to his yacht since finishing a close second in the Fastnet Race.

Steinlager 2

(Switzerland)
Skipper: Peter Stucki, MBE
Navigator: Mike Oiler
Watch leader: Brad Butterworth and Ross Field
Crew: 16
Designer: Bruce Farr
Length: 63.75ft (19.4m)
Displacement: 77,500lb (35,160kg)
Rating: 70ft
Launch date: 1988
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Carbon/Kevlar/epoxy composite
Sponsor: Steinlager Brewery
Budget: £3 million
Steinlager's three-minute victory over Fisher and Paykel in the Fastnet Race closed with 14 on board against the 22 aboard the Swiss maxi. Smith and his crew are the most experienced in the Whitbread fleet. The Humphrey's design is obviously fast but lack of preparation time on the water (they have covered less than 3,000 miles) raised doubts about durability. However, at 9-1, the Ladbroke's offer must be good for an early start.

Baltic Maxi

(Switzerland)
Skipper: Pierre Fehrmann
Navigator: Dominique Werra
Watch leader: Gerald Rogovin and Michel Pizzini
Crew: 14-16
Designer: Bruce Farr
Length: 80.75ft (24.6m)
Displacement: 71,200lb (32,270kg)
Rating: 70ft
Launch date: 1988
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Carbon/Kevlar/epoxy composite
Sponsor: Philip Morris
Budget: £4 million
At 7-2, Merit is favourite among the slop-rigged maxis, reflecting Pierre Fehrmann's comprehensive preparations. The winner last time round, Fehrmann and his Swiss crew have challenged on three transatlantic race victories this year over their leading rivals. This will be Fehrmann's fourth Whitbread race.

The Card

(Sweden)
Skipper: Roger Nelson
Navigator: John Jourdane
Watch leader: Terry Gould
Crew: 17
Designer: Ron Holland
Length: 80.83ft (24.65m)
Displacement: 64,400lb (29,200kg)
Rating: 70ft
Launch date: 1988
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Carbon/Kevlar/epoxy composite
Sponsor: National City Bank
Budget: £3.4 million
Major surgery, adding 1ft to the bows to increase waterline length, coupled with greater sail area, improved the rating and performance of this first Irish Whitbread entry in time for the

Co-skipper Magnus Olson

Watch leader: Peter Melville and Luc Heymans
Crew: 15
Designer: Bruce Farr
Length: 70ft (21.3m)
Displacement: 66,541lb (30,200kg)
Rating: 70ft
Launch date: 1988
Rig: Masthead ketch
Construction: Carbon/Kevlar/epoxy composite
Sponsor: Mastercard/Acces/Eurocard
Budget: £2.75 million
Heavy money placed on the Swedish maxi after the winning performance of her two last-rigged sister-ships in the Fastnet Race halved the odds available on The Card to 7-1, despite the fact that she has yet to race.

Rothmans

(Britain)
Skipper: K 100
Skipper/watch leader: Lawrie Smith
Co-skipper/watch leader: Kym Morton
Navigator: Vincent Geeke
Crew: 13
Designer: Rob Humphreys
Length: 80.5ft (24.54m)
Displacement: 63,900lb (28,900kg)
Rating: 70ft
Launch date: 1988
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Carbon/Kevlar/epoxy composite
Sponsor: Rothmans
Budget: £4 million
Third place in the 805-mile Fastnet Race ahead of Merit was a big boost for the Rothmans crew, especially since they were sailing in Whitbread trim with 14 on board against the 22 aboard the Swiss maxi. Smith and his crew are the most experienced in the Whitbread fleet. The Humphrey's design is obviously fast but lack of preparation time on the water (they have covered less than 3,000 miles) raised doubts about durability. However, at 9-1, the Ladbroke's offer must be good for an early start.

Baltic Maxi

(Switzerland)
Skipper: Pierre Fehrmann
Navigator: Dominique Werra
Watch leader: Gerald Rogovin and Michel Pizzini
Crew: 14-16
Designer: Bruce Farr
Length: 80.75ft (24.6m)
Displacement: 71,200lb (32,270kg)
Rating: 70ft
Launch date: 1988
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Carbon/Kevlar/epoxy composite
Sponsor: Philip Morris
Budget: £4 million
At 7-2, Merit is favourite among the slop-rigged maxis, reflecting Pierre Fehrmann's comprehensive preparations. The winner last time round, Fehrmann and his Swiss crew have challenged on three transatlantic race victories this year over their leading rivals. This will be Fehrmann's fourth Whitbread race.

NCB Ireland

(Ireland)
Skipper: Joe English
Navigator: Arthur Radford
Watch leader: Terry Gould
Crew: 17
Designer: Ron Holland
Length: 80.83ft (24.65m)
Displacement: 64,400lb (29,200kg)
Rating: 70ft
Launch date: 1988
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Carbon/Kevlar/epoxy composite
Sponsor: National City Bank
Budget: £3.4 million
Major surgery, adding 1ft to the bows to increase waterline length, coupled with greater sail area, improved the rating and performance of this first Irish Whitbread entry in time for the

Fastnet trial when the yacht

finished sixth, 15km behind Baltic Maxi. The crew have since been strengthened by the inclusion of Gordon McGuire, who sailed Jamaica to victory in the recent Admiral's Cup. Ladbroke's starting odds: 12-1.

Fortuna Extra Lights

(Spain)
Skipper: E 1988
Skipper/watch leader: Jose Luis Dorotea
Watch leader: Miguel and Hector Lopez
Crew: 13
Designer: Javier Vela
Length: 77ft (23.47m)
Displacement: 61,520lb (27,820kg)
Rating: 69.14ft
Launch date: 1988
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Carbon/Kevlar/epoxy composite
Sponsor: Fortuna
Budget: £2 million
Second-placed finisher to Merit in the Route of Discovery transatlantic race, this small maxi has undergone considerable modifications to increase her rating. Has this optimization improved the boat? She is still giving away a hefty 0.88ft to her rivals and the crew have had to concentrate on returning their rig rather than fine-tuning themselves for the challenge ahead. Ladbroke's starting odds: 16-1.

Belmont Finland II

(Finland)
Skipper: Harry Harkimo
Watch leader: Sebastian Elvander, Mikko Brunner and Ken Thelen
Crew: 16
Designer: Bruce Farr
Length: 73.42ft (22.47m)
Displacement: 61,730lb (28,000kg)
Rating: 70ft
Launch date: 1984
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Carbon/Kevlar/epoxy composite
Sponsor: Philip Morris
Budget: £1.8 million
Pierre Fehrmann's former race winner is now in the hands of circumnavigator, Harry Harkimo. The yacht has been refitted with a bigger rig and heavier keel and in the recent race, Harkimo and his crew proved she has the pace in light weather. The crew start with odds of 12-1 after benefiting from the sparing partnership they had last winter with Fehrmann and his latest maxi.

Satquote British Defender

(Britain)
Skipper: Lt Col Frank Essen
Navigator: Colin Watkins
Watch leader: Pi-Li John East and Serge Guitierrez
Crew: 14-16
Designer: John Francis
Length: 79.42ft (24.2m)
Displacement: 67,200lb (30,540kg)
Rating: 70ft
Launch date: 1989
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Carbon/Kevlar/epoxy composite
Sponsor: Satquote
Budget: £2.5 million plus military support
The change from the planned three-skipper and crews to a single team has undoubtedly improved the chances of this British yacht. A strong finish behind Merit and Baltic Maxi during the return leg of the French transatlantic race also bolstered confidence on board. Changes to the keel and improvement carried out on the rig and hull since have increased upwind speed by 3 per cent, but the crew lost a first chance to test these changes by not competing in the Fastnet Race, a factor that reflects on their odds of 16-1.

UBF Finland

(Finland)
Skipper: L 8008
Skipper/watch leader: Lars Follman
Watch leader: Henrik Tenstrom
Crew: 14-16
Designer: Joubert and Nivet
Length: 82.67ft (25.2m)
Displacement: 64,288lb (29,220kg)
Rating: 70ft
Launch date: 1988
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Hull, Alloy Deck, composites
Sponsor: Union Bank of Finland
Budget: £2.5 million
Finishing a disappointing seventh in the recent Fastnet Race, UBF's yacht has so far failed to impress, despite radical modifications carried out earlier in the year. After a mysterious case of stolen mast spreaders during the yacht's first race last month, the crew have had to concentrate on returning their rig rather than fine-tuning themselves for the challenge ahead. Ladbroke's starting odds: 16-1.



Lawrie Smith: experienced Rothmans skipper

Liverpool Enterprise

(Britain)
Skipper: K 3581
Skipper/watch leader: Chris Tibbo and Alan Smith
Crew: 16
Designer: Bruce Farr
Length: 79.63ft (24.32m)
Displacement: 66,660lb (30,250kg)
Rating: 69.5ft
Launch date: 1984
Rig: Masthead ketch
Construction: Carbon/Kevlar/epoxy composite
Sponsor: Local support from Liverpool
Budget: £1 million
Problem with sponsorship - plans to name the boat Manchester 1986 were dropped two weeks ago - have left Salmon and his amateur crew badly lacking in finance and practice. The yacht, formerly Atlantic Privateer, was dismasted while leading the first leg of the previous race, also raising doubts about her seaworthiness, making it difficult to raise on equal terms. Ladbroke's starting odds: 25-1.

Gatorade

(Italy)
Skipper: Giorgio Falck
Navigator: Giovanni Falck
Crew: 14-16
Designer: Bruce Farr
Length: 80ft (24.4m)
Displacement: 60,000lb (27,230kg)
Rating: 70ft
Launch date: 1984
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Carbon/Kevlar/epoxy composite
Sponsor: Gatorade
Budget: £2.2 million
Gatorade's eighth place in the Fastnet Race last month, when the yacht finished more than six hours behind the leaders, made it clear that the Italian have made little headway since finishing 8th in the Spanish transatlantic race last winter. Ladbroke's starting odds: 25-1.

Charles Jourdan

(France)
Skipper: F 8992

Skipper: Mac Philippe Cousteau

Co-skipper: Alain Gabbey
Navigator: Hervé Diap
Crew: 11
Designer: Guy Ribadeau Dumas
Length: 72ft (22m)
Displacement: 35,000lb (15,900kg)
Rating: 69.74ft
Launch date: 1988
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Carbon/epoxy composite
Sponsor: Charles Jourdan
Budget: £1.4 million
Launched at the end of July, Alain Gabbey, who finished second on handicap in the 1981-2 race, has had his work cut out this time to get this ultra-light design to Southampton on time, which is reflected in her outside starting odds of 50-1.

Pepsi Fazisi

(Soviet Union)
Skipper: Skip Novak
Co-skipper: Nikolai Gerasimov
Navigator: Sergei Alstyev
Watch leader: Tomaz Zolde
Crew: 14-16
Designer: Vladimir Manikov
Length: 82.75ft (25.23m)
Displacement: 38,140lb (17,300kg)
Rating: 69.5ft
Launch date: 1988
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Alloy
Sponsor: Pepsi Cola
Budget: £2.5 million
A design error led to frantic modifications this week to bring Fazisi's rating down 4ft to the 70ft limit. The Russians are the 100-1 outsiders but have shown remarkable fortitude just getting their strange-shaped yacht to Southampton on time. If they start, they have to learn how to sail the boat during the first stage of the race to Punta del Este.

Division B

No entries

Division C

Equity and Law II

(The Netherlands)
Skipper: Dirk Nauta
Co-skipper: Gideon Messink
Navigator: Hans van Trest
Watch leader: Hans Skuijlen
Crew: 10-11
Designer: Judd and Vrolijk
Length: 68ft (20.7m)
Displacement: 42,800lb (19,500kg)
Rating: 64.88ft
Launch date: 1984
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Alloy
Sponsor: Equity and Law Insurance
Budget: £750,000

Division D

US Women's Challenge

(United States)
Skipper: Nancy Frank
Navigator: Jerry Pocock
Crew: 10
Designer: Guy Ribadeau Dumas
Length: 57ft (17.3m)
Displacement: 33,000lb (15,000kg)
Rating: 47.40
Launch date: 1988
Rig: Masthead sloop
Construction: Alloy
Sponsor: None
Budget: £1.5 million

Schlusel von Bremen

(West Germany)
Skipper: Rolf Ranken
Co-skipper: Heinz Glahr
Navigator: Jens Dammeyer
Watch leader: Jörg Müller
Crew: 14
Designer: Judd and Vrolijk
Length: 68ft (20.7m)
Displacement: 52,335lb (23,730kg)
Rating: 47.40ft
Launch date: 1983

Rig: Masthead sloop

Construction: Glass reinforced plastic
Sponsor: Beck's brewery
Budget: £200,000

L'Esprit de Liberte

(France)
Skipper: Philippe Briand
Navigator: Patrick Tabary
Watch leader: Jean-Pierre Perraud and Jacques Kermos
Crew: 12
Designer: Bruce Farr
Length: 63.75ft (19.4m)
Displacement: 33,024lb (14,980kg)
Rating: 69.52ft
Launch date: 1980
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Alloy
Sponsor: None
Budget: £700,000

Maiden

(Britain)
Skipper: K 1418
Skipper/watch leader: Tracy Edwards
Watch leader: Dawn Riley and Michele Parrot
Crew: 12
Designer: Bruce Farr
Length: 63.75ft (19.4m)
Displacement: 33,024lb (14,980kg)
Rating: 69.52ft
Launch date: 1980
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Alloy
Sponsor: None
Budget: £700,000

Rucanor Sport

(Belgium)
Skipper: Bruno Dubois
Navigator: Hervé Perrin
Watch leader: Olivier Bardo
Crew: 9
Designer: Guy Ribadeau Dumas
Length: 57.5ft (17.54m)
Displacement: 35,512lb (16,100kg)
Rating: 69.15ft
Launch date: 1985
Rig: Fractional sloop
Construction: Kevlar/epoxy composite
Sponsor: Rucanor
Budget: £200,000

La Poste

(France)
Skipper: Daniel Malle
Watch leader: Jean-Pierre Perraud and Jacques Kermos
Crew: 6
Designer: German Frers
Length: 50ft (15.24m)
Displacement: 26,000lb (11,800kg)
Rating: 49.46ft
Launch date: 1987
Rig: Masthead sloop
Construction: Glass reinforced plastic
Sponsor: French Post Office
Budget: £750,000

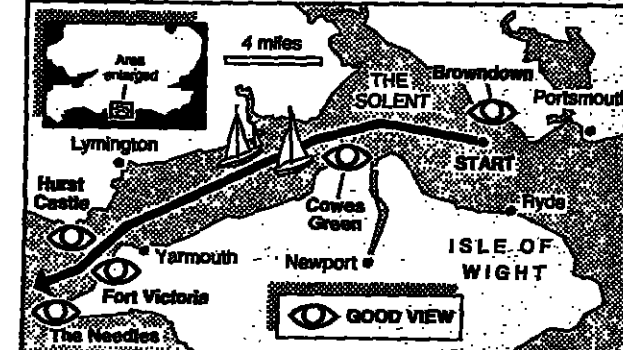
Cruiser division

Creighton's Naturally

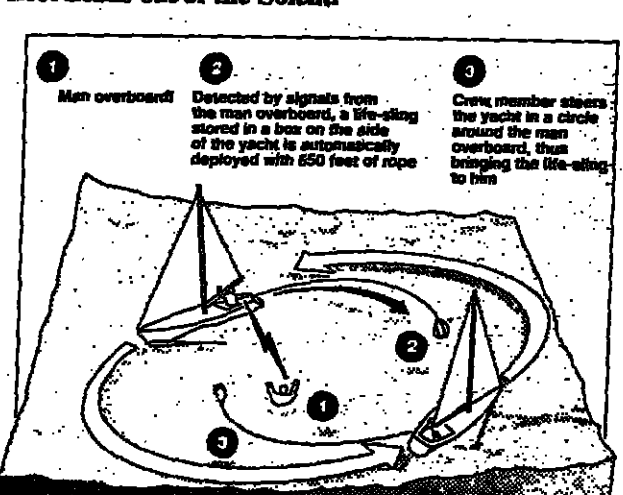
(Britain)
Skipper: John Chisholm
Navigator: Andrew Smith
Watch leader: Tony Allen, Tony Phillips and Chris Murdoch
Crew: 20
Designer: Peterson and Alan Williams
Length: 77.67ft (23.62m)
Displacement: 76,174lb (34,540kg)
Rating: 69.79ft
Launch date: 1980
Rig: Masthead sloop
Construction: Glass reinforced plastic
Sponsor: Creightons Laboratories
Budget: £500,000

With Integrity

(Britain)
Skipper: Andrew Coghill
Navigator: John Hiron
Watch leader: Ian Chisholm
Crew: 15
Designer: Alan Gurney
Length: 77.67ft (23.62m)
Displacement: 73,020lb (33,120kg)
Rating: 67.8ft
Launch date: 1972
Rig: Masthead sloop
Construction: Glass composite
Sponsor: Chapel Ash Securities
Budget: £500,000



The race starts at noon tomorrow from a line set between the frigate HMS Ambuscade and the square-rigged training ship, Astrid, anchored in the Solent off Brown-down. The event is expected to attract more than 2,000 spectators, which are asked to stay outside the main channel marked by a series of ships at anchor. On the Isle of Wight, the best points to view the spectacle will be from Cowes, Green, Albert and Victoria forts west of Yarmouth and from the Needles. On the mainland, the start can be viewed from Brown-down, Lee-on-Solent, while Hurst Castle, close to Lymington, provides one of the best views as the fleet heads out of the Solent.



Crews to benefit from safety improvements

Safety has been a key issue among organizers of the Whitbread race this year after the Times highlighted the shortcomings of existing man-overboard equipment during tests carried out in July.

The poor performance of man-overboard life rafts and the common sea buoy prescribed for all yachts competing in the Whitbread race led to the formation of The Times/RORC Safety at Sea Committee with the aim of producing an effective location and recovery system.

The system it has developed, involving a locator beacon and automatic radio direction finder, was approved when it was demonstrated to Whitbread skippers last week. Two crews, Saquote British Defender and Creighton's Naturally, have been so impressed that they are busy fitting their yachts with the equipment before the start and other crews plan to install the system at Punta del Este before heading into the wild waters of the Southern Ocean.

The single-handed sailor has not been forgotten either. Competitors in the solo Globe Challenge and the BOC race next year, who fall overboard, now have a far greater chance of survival thanks to Robin Knox-Johnston's efforts in helping to develop a device that disables the yacht and fires a retrieval line overboard, the moment the crewman hits the water.

The system which has been devised at the instigation of The Times/RORC Safety at Sea Committee, is set off by a miniature low-frequency transmitter worn on the arm. The complex signaling, manufactured by Transglobe Technology, is activated by water only when the crewman has fallen off the deck, and launches a life-line attached to a 650ft coiled line as the Antihelm autopilot puts the rudder hard over to turn the yacht into wind.

In the first tests carried out this week, the action of the rudder slowed the boat sufficiently for Knox-Johnston to pull himself along the line and back on board within two minutes. "It worked perfectly, and a man overboard, well, he's rounded right up into wind and stopped completely," Knox-Johnston said.

When - fully developed, the system is likely to have a far wider application for short-handed crews and families when there is often only one experienced sailor on board.

Instead of relying on inexperienced hands to get the boat back alongside the casualty, the crew has only to circle the crew member in the water, leaving them to swim the short radius to the towed line.

The Transglobe signal can be interfaced with any electronic equipment, from the Decca Navigator to log the position and a continuous bearing back to the crew member. "The system offers tremendous potential, with more testing, I am sure it will provide a viable solution to man-overboard problem," Keith Minto, Britain's Olympic silver medal winner, said, after witnessing the first trial in the Solent.

WHITBREAD

YACHT CALL
(For all the news)
0898 12 15 40
RESULTS
(For latest results)
0898 12 15 41

British Telecom
Official Race Communications
Calls cost 35p per minute plus
standard rate and 1p per minute charge.

In colour in The Times tomorrow: Lawrie Smith, captain of Rothmans, introduces his boat and his crew. During the race, Smith will be sending reports directly from the boat to The Times

مكتبة الأصيل

SPORT

tomorrow

The best of the
action and
comment from at
home and abroad

Lawrie Smith
introduces his
team to race
around the world

John Barnes
under pressure
as a Black
and Red

Alvin Kallikar
on his last
chance of success
at Lord's

Dilley brings season to triumphant conclusion

By Jack Bailey

WORCESTER: Worcester-
shire (22 points) beat
Gloucestershire (six) by 131
runs

Worcestershire retained their
Britannic Assurance county
cricket championship yester-
day—and they did so in the
grand manner. Graham
Dilley, bowling at his fastest
and best, removed Gloucester-
shire's last four wickets in
11 balls for seven runs and
brought Worcester home with
a day, 131 runs and 12
overs to spare.

As Hingworth ran round to
take a skied catch from Law-
rence, the crowd were already
on their way across the pitch
to watch the presentation
ceremony and to applaud
their heroes.

Phil Neale, the Worcester-
shire captain, was quick to
praise the efforts of those who,
beyond the Hicks, Dilleys and
Bothams, had done so much
to keep Worcester in the hunt
during a season in which
injuries and Test match calls
could have cost them dear.
"This year's achievement
rates even greater than last
year's," Neale said. "We've
had a lot of injuries and Test
calls and I'm very proud of all
the squad, particularly the

Top of the table

Worcester (1) 21 12 2 5 44 78 216
Gloucester (2) 20 11 2 7 55 67 273
Middlesex (3) 20 9 2 5 44 66 258

youngsters who have done so
well for us."

If there had been any doubt
as to whom he was referring, it
was soon dispelled by the
announcement that Steve
McEwan and Stuart Lampitt
had been awarded their
county caps.

Both played a large part in
Worcestershire's victory in
this match; both had filled the
breach admirably in the
absence of Dilley and Botham
for an important part of the
campaign. On Wednesday,
McEwan made his mark with
four wickets; yesterday it was
the turn of Lampitt.

He, it was, who ripped the
heart from Gloucestershire's
batting after they had been set
the difficult, but by no means
impossible, task of scoring 256
to win.

Overcast conditions aided
his movement off the seam, and
he bowled beautifully,
cutting the ball from off to leg
and, in company with
Botham, sending back the first
six Gloucestershire batsmen
for 84. Only Wright and
Hainbridge were able to resist

for any length of time against a
Worcestershire whose every
step in the field was alive with
determination.

Worcestershire had taken
the field for the second time
full of hope, knowing that they
had asked Gloucestershire to
make the highest score of the
match, but disappointed that they
had not put the result
beyond reasonable doubt.

For this to happen on a
morning when Curran and
Bainbridge were moving the
ball through the air and off the
seam, the key was a big
inning from Hick. It did not
materialize. In the event,
some fine Gloucestershire
catching made swift inroads.

Curran removed Lampitt in
the third over of the day and,
while Hick was savaging Law-
rence, Curran struck again,
enticing Hingworth forward
for Graveney, as third slip, to
catch the ball low and to his
right when it had virtually
passed him. This was the first
of two fine catches by
Graveney, but the diving
catch by Curran at mid-
wicket, which saw the end of
Hick, was as electrifying as the
one vital to Gloucestershire
cause.

Enter Botham with six
wickets down for 125. He

played responsibly for his 29,
but an unworthy attempt to
pull Lawrence in the last over
before lunch saw Alleyne
make a fine running catch and
it was left to Rhodes to nurse
the tail and edge his team past
the 200 mark which proved
more than sufficient.

WORCESTERSHIRE: First innings 248 (7
S Currie 96)

Second innings
TS Currie 96 b Walsh 21
P J Best run out 27
P H Lampitt c Toombs b Lawrence 22
R H Hingworth c Graveney b Curran 26
G A Hick c Curran b Bainbridge 26
S D Hingworth c Graveney b Curran 17
P A Neale c Graveney b Curran 10
I T Botham c Alleyne b Lawrence 22
S J Rhodes not out 46
S M McEwan c Wright b Lawrence 7
G R Dilley bowled 1
Extras (p 5, b 5, nb 7) 21
Total 219

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-56, 2-56, 3-70, 4-
112, 5-120, 6-138, 7-188, 8-200

BOWLING: Walsh 21.4-45-2; Lawrence
19.2-54-3; Bainbridge 13.2-43-2; Curran
12.2-27-2; Graveney 1.1-0-0

GLoucestershire: First innings 206
(M W Alleyne 52; S M McEwan 5 for 67)

Second innings
A J Wright 56 b Botham 27
G D Hodgson b Lampitt 16
G W Llewellyn c Hick b Lampitt 16
C W J Alleyne c Hingworth b Botham 11
P Hainbridge c Hingworth b Lampitt 46
M W Curran c Hingworth b Lampitt 4
M A Alleyne b Lampitt 4
S G A Toombs b Dilley 4
C A Walsh not out 0
D V Lawrence c Hingworth b Dilley 4
Extras (p 3, nb 1) 4
Total 124

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-43, 2-48, 3-53, 4-
59, 5-64, 6-70, 7-102, 8-114, 9-114

BOWLING: Dilley 8.4-22-4; McEwan 9-
1.28-4; Botham 17.5-38-2; Lampitt 16.6-
32-4

Umpires: K J Lyons and P J Ellis.

Skippers' race eve protests

By Barry Pickthall

There was uproar among the
smaller yachts on the eve of
the Whitbread Round the
World Race when the race
committee refused to act last
night over complaints that a
change in the rules had left
many yachts with no chance of
winning the overall handicap
prize.

Dirk Nauta, the Dutch skipper
of Equify and Law II, the
sole entry in division C, has
threatened to sue the Royal
Naval Sealing Association to
recover the money his sponsor
has paid out.

"It's like moving the goal
posts at half time," he com-
plained bitterly. "I will be
starting the race with a red
protest flag flying." Howard
Gibbons, project manager of
the Tracy Edwards all-girl
British challenger, Maiden,
was equally bitter. "Talking to
the race committee about this
is like addressing a brick
wall," he said.

Race guide, page 32

The skippers complain that
the committee have changed
the rules twice, each time to
the detriment of the smaller
classes. The original notice
stated that the event would be
run on a time on distance
formula but this has now been
changed to a time on time
calculation.

To compound the problem,
the committee, chaired by
Rear Admiral Charles Wil-
liams, chose to revert to last
year's out-dated and inaccurate
measurement formula
which provides the marks with
as much as 0.7% advantage in
rating over the smaller yachts.
This, coupled with the 1989
time correction factor which is
also weighted against the
smaller boats, makes it almost
certain that the winning maxi
will also pick up the cherished
Whitbread handicap trophy,
leaving the small yachts to
fight over the "fun" prizes.

Soviet yacht just makes the size limit

Eleventh-hour salvation
appears to be at hand for both
the Soviet and United States en-
tries in the Whitbread Round
the World Race which starts
tomorrow (Malcolm McKean
writes).

Pepi Fazio, the Soviet
entry, was reassured yester-
day with the news that
bought from Rotterdam for its
lead scap valon and fitted over
the past two days after round-
the-clock work by her crew.
The yacht just scraped in
under the 70 feet rating limit
for the race with 69.9 feet.

Skip Novak, the American
salter who has been acting as
manager and problem solver
for the Russians, has been
formally nominated skipper
and Aleksandr Greshnikov,
previously named skipper,
remains in the crew.

In a separate development,
Nance Frank, skipper of the
American all-women's crew
which has been bedevilled by
financial problems, hopes to
announce this morning that
she has secured the \$150,000
she needs to enable her to
start.

An island in the sun for England supporters

By John Goodbody

England and their troublesome
supporters are likely to be based
at Cagliari on the island of
Sardinia for the preliminary
matches of next year's World
Cup—a decision which has
caused a commotion in Italy.

World Cup organizers indicated in Rome
yesterday that the six seeded
teams would be Argentina, Italy,
West Germany, Belgium, Brazil
and either England or Spain and
that England would play on
Sardinia in the 41,000-seat
Sant'Elia stadium.

"Of course, we are in the
hands of the Italian authori-
ties," a Government spokesman
said. "However, we would be
more than happy if these
arrangements are confirmed."

It would be extremely sensible
for England to be confined to
Cagliari for the three prelimi-
nary matches because there
could be careful monitoring of
people arriving and leaving the
Mediterranean island, which
will be impossible if the
games were played on the
mainland.

Much of the trouble at the
1988 European Championship
finals in West Germany was
caused by England followers
being attacked by supporters of
other countries. By isolating
England for as long as possible
in the tournament, it will
prevent exacerbating the situation.
Ian McGregor, the Assistant
Chief Constable of the British
Transport Police, said: "I do not

formally know this news. How-
ever, I am not surprised that this
is the case. It would mean that
for matches in Sardinia the
supporters will all be together in
a confined area."

McGregor, who liaises with
foreign countries as the EEC's
permanent correspondent in
Britain, would play a big part in
forwarding information from all
the United Kingdom police
forces on the number and
identity of supporters travelling
across the Continent.

The Football Association will
be screening the names of
everyone applying officially for
tickets at the games against a list
of known troublemakers. In
addition, when the Football
Membership Bill becomes law
in the next session of Parlia-
ment, anyone who is con-
sidered a troublemaker will be
forced to report to police
attendance centres in Britain
during the World Cup, which
will begin on June 8, with the
final on July 8.

According to the World Cup
organizers, Argentina will play
in Naples, Italy will be based in
Rome, West Germany in Ve-
rona, Brazil in Milan and Bel-
gium in Turin.

However, if England are to
play all their games in Sardinia,
they will have to be given the
ball numbered 21 when the
draw is made in Rome on
December 9 because the other
three nations in Group F will

also play preliminary matches
in Sicily.

An FA spokesman called the
news "a bit premature, because
we only know two of the
qualifiers. We would only ex-
press a preference for a particu-
lar site after we have inspected
it. The reason for this rumour is
that of security."

Yet it is well known that the
organizers influence the draw
for the 24-quarter finals, bearing
in mind several factors, includ-
ing security.

Cagliari, a city of 225,000
inhabitants, can be reached by
air or by regular ferry services
from several ports on the
mainland. This would still allow
the police to check everyone
coming to the island.

England could make a large
stride towards qualification for
the finals when they meet
Sweden in Stockholm on
Wednesday. The FA has not
taken any tickets for the match.

"There are a number of
organized parties travelling to
the game and they have co-
ordinated with police forces
throughout the country,"
McGregor said. "We have
passed on the information to the
Continental police and travel
operators. We expect about 500
supporters to make the trip."

When England last met Swe-
den in 1986, 200 supporters
travelled to the game and about
150 bought tickets on their
arrival.

Ken Brown made a more
enthusiastic return to form with
a 65, enabling him to share the
lead with Severiano Ballesteros,
Bernhard Langer, Stephen
Bennett and Mats Lanner, of
Sweden, but Lyle rekindled his
spirits with a determined performance.

The course, set 5,000 feet
above the Rhone Valley, an-
nually yields a veritable feast
of birds and eagles, with the
rarest air enabling golfers to
hit the ball about 10 per cent
further. Mark Davis required
only a driver and a five-iron at
the first, which meant that he
walked off the green with the
rarest of birds, an albatross
two.

Lyle could manage only a
five there but in between that
and taking three putts at the



Chipper in check: Alison Nicholas in action at the Variety Club Classic. Report, page 34

Lyle awaits the green light on his drive back to form

From Mitchell Platt's
Golf Correspondent
Crans-Montana

Most came to praise him,
though some were inclined to
bury him, as Sandy Lyle
sought to revive his game with
a first round of 70 in the Ebel
European Masters here
yesterday.

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Card of the course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	519	5	10	388	4
2	432	4	11	213	3
3	185	3	12	213	3
4	498	4	13	207	3
5	325	4	14	576	5
6	529	5	15	576	5
7	317	4	16	329	4
8	185	3	17	355	4
9	624	5	18	355	4

Out 3,455; 36 in 3,558; 36

Total yardage: 4,811

Par 72

It showed as Brown linked
seven birdies to an eagle three
at the 15th, where he chipped
in from 12 yards. He is
committing himself to Europe
again, after six years and one
win on the US Tour, and that
is probably why. If, as he
intends, he competes in more
than 25 tournaments next
year, Brown at his best would
be a contender for first place
in the Volvo Order of Merit.

Langer and Ballesteros not
only propelled themselves
into contention, they also
provided encouraging news
for Jacklin in so far as being
ready for the Ryder Cup, and
for Lyle. "I've had my lean
times," Langer said. "I've
found my form again; it is a
lesson for Sandy."

"I've been facing a red light
for so long that it's nice to
know I've got to amber," Lyle
said. "But I will not be happy
until it goes to green."

Like Lyle, Brown is happier
now that the European team
for the Ryder Cup is finalized.
Brown, too, will be absent
from The Belfry but he accepts
that Tony Jacklin had no
option but to overlook him. "I
tried too hard," Brown said.
"I'm relaxed again."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Safety first at Cardiff

The streets around the Cardiff
Arms Park will be declared an
exclusion zone to non-ticket
holders on international rugby
union match days from this
season as part of a police
crowd safety scheme.

That restriction will meet
with opposition from tradi-
tionalists who are likely to
argue that it will spoil the
atmosphere outside the na-
tional stadium but police feel
the measure is necessary
following the Hillsborough
football disaster last season.

Out of action

Injury has deprived Notting-
ham of Brian Moore, the
British Lions and England
hooker, and the England B
centre, Gary Hartley, for their
opening rugby union game
against Hawick at Becontree
tomorrow.

Roche returns

Brussels (Reuters) — Stephen
Roche, of Ireland, the former
world cycling champion, will
return to competition next
week after a nine-week ab-
sence through injury. Roche,
a member of the Belgian team,
Histor-Sigma, will compete in
two minor races in Belgium on
September 7 and 8 before
making his official comeback
on September 10 in the Grand
Prix de Fourmies in France.

Title defence

Paul Hodgkinson, will defend
his British featherweight box-
ing title against Peter Harris,
of Swansea, at Port Talbot
next Wednesday.

LeMond signs

Denver (AP) — Greg LeMond,
the Tour de France champion,
has agreed to a three-year
contract worth about £3.4
million with Z-Peugeot and
Fagor, the combined French
cycling team.

A stimulating preparation

Alan Cooke, the Common-
wealth champion, and Des-
mond Douglas, the former
European top-12 champion,
should enjoy stimulating pre-
season preparation represent-
ing England in a three-way
unofficial table-tennis inter-
national against France and
The Netherlands, at the Mich-
ael Sobell Centre, London,
today (Richard Eaton writes).

The home team is com-
pleted by Matthew Syed, aged
18, at the start of a season in
which England hope to de-
velop several promising teen-
agers as part of the campaign
for success in the European
championships and the in-
augural world team cup.

France and The
Netherlands will provide in-
teresting yardsticks. Jean-Philip-
pe Gatiou was the man who
halted Jorgen Persson, the
defending European cham-
pion.

END COLUMN

Historic melody is lost in the din

David Miller

Puerto Rico
We do not know whether
Athens, which Sophocles
called the world's best resting
place, will next year be
awarded the right to host the
centenary Olympic Games of
1996. We cannot even be sure
at this stage whether, on
modern technical considera-
tions of security, transport,
finance, communications and
construction, Athens will de-
serve the Games.

What was evident the other
evening, however, is that the
International Olympic Com-
mittee does not deserve the
heritage of classical Greece
which Athens would attempt
to make a central, soul-restor-
ing theme of their Games: that
synthesis of sophisticated
mind with muscular body
which must always be at the
core of man's existence.

At a dinner for IOC guests
and others, Mikis
Theodorakis, the internation-
ally celebrated composer, gave
the invited audience a world
premiere of his new sym-
phonic ballet, written around
the theme of Zorba. Through-
out the duration of this hun-
dred melodic work, more than
half the IOC members present
spent the time talking loudly,
drinking and laughing.

Had I been Greek, I would
have felt like jumping to my
feet and shouting: "Keep your
Greece and your television
millions and your sponsorship
deals and your alleged auton-
omy." But the Greeks, having
founded the oldest democracy,
remain civilized.

Greeks should alter approach

Undoubtedly, the Greeks
should forget their cultural
awareness for the time being
and concentrate on facing
Toronto and Atlanta toe-to-toe
in the dollar ring, which is
what the IOC, these days,
understands best. I agree with
Bob Scott, chairman of the
Manchester bid, who dis-
armed everyone by saying with
candour that Athens deserves
the Games and that Manches-
ter's aim was to be best
substitute.

I have nothing against At-
lanta or Toronto, and though I
think Manchester have ex-
cellent plans and the most
agreeable of all the leaders in
Scott, I likewise think we owe
it to Athens: but have doubts
about their getting to the
starting line fully fit.

The 95th session has been
eventful. Prince de Merode,
chairman of the Medical Com-
mission, has had the budget
approved for his flying, go-
anywhere, hanging-in-the-air
laboratory. Anita de Franco
forced her IOC colleagues to
consider a life ban for drug-
takers; tennis, in the wake of
ATP's about-turn in dropping
their events in South Africa,
has confirmed; football has
predictably won its battle for a
continuing under-23
tournament.

Philippe Chatrier, president
of the Tennis Federation, goes
to Buenos Aires in two weeks
to try to persuade Nigeria and
Scandinavia to abandon a
move to get South Africa
expelled, which would fall on
the voting system, and opt
instead for a year-to-year
suspension, equally effective.

Juan Antonio Samaranch
has been unanimously
elected president of the IOC
until 1993, and Zhenzhen He,
of China, that most rational
representative of an often un-
fathomable Communist re-
gime, has been elected vice-
president. Robert Helmick,
of the United States, is elected
to the executive board, where he
will no doubt try to justify, if
not expand, the 10 per cent of
US television rights which
is given, grudgingly, to the
US Olympic Committee.

Suspension of South Africa

And the anti-apartheid
movement has confirmed, if
confirmation were needed, that
Britain is caught on a sticky
wicket in any international
sporting venture dependent on
a vote.